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Japan

Ministry Drafts Plan on U.S. Competitiveness

OW2402084993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0842 GMT 24 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 24 KYODO—The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) has drawn up a three-point cooperation package to help strengthen U.S. industries' competitiveness, ministry officials said Wednesday. The package has three parts—conversion of the military industry for civilian purposes, training of U.S. researchers at Japanese companies and development of advanced technology directly connected with production, the officials said.

MITI is considering proposing the package during International Trade and Industry Minister Yoshiro Mori's visit to the United States, possibly in March at the earliest, they said. Since the new U.S. Administration attaches importance to environmental issues and measures against AIDS, the ministry intends to focus on industrial cooperation in those areas.

The package is apparently aimed at showing a positive cooperative stance to the U.S. before Washington works out specific policies on trade with Japan. The move reflects the backdrop of growing U.S. complaints about Tokyo's ballooning trade surplus with Washington.

The ministry's advisory group on international cooperation in research, consisting of academics and corporate heads, is studying the cooperation in details, the officials said.

The U.S. military industry has been forced to reduce personnel as a result of defense budget cuts. MITI is studying whether it can provide ideas to develop new products for civilian purposes using advanced military technology, the officials said.

The ministry also plans to accept master's degree holders as trainees in key industries, such as auto and semiconductor manufacturing, with a view to fostering young researchers, they said. Among possible advanced technology to be developed in cooperation are information equipment like optical fiber and linear and electric cars, they said.

Hayashi Discounts Rumors of G-7 Yen Agreement

OW2402051893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0501 GMT 24 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 24 KYODO—Finance Minister Yoshiro Hayashi on Wednesday discounted speculation that financial officials of the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations will agree to let the yen appreciate further on the foreign exchange market.

Hayashi, answering questions before the House of Representatives budget committee, said it is inconceivable that G-7 officials would agree to such an action at their meeting scheduled to be held in London this Saturday. He said he believes that other G-7 nations agree with Japan that the yen's value, reflecting Japan's economic fundamentals, should remain stable.

Official: Stronger Yen Could Worsen Surplus

OW2402094093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0931 GMT 24 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 24 KYODO—A stronger yen against the dollar could boost Japan's already soaring trade surplus in the shorter run, a senior Finance Ministry official said Wednesday, criticizing recent remarks supporting the yen's appreciation to trim the surplus.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that considering Japan's trade structure, a 1 percent appreciation of the yen against the U.S. currency could serve to balloon the surplus by 1 billion dollars.

He also said statistics show that Japan's surplus tends to rise when economic growth is slow.

Mori Urges Buying More Foreign Microchips

OW2402032093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0254 GMT 24 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 24 KYODO—Japan's trade minister called Wednesday for continuing efforts to buy more foreign-made semiconductors with a view to developing good relationships overseas, officials said. Yoshiro Mori, head of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), made the request at a morning gathering with business executives from the electrical, electronic, and information-related industries, the MITI officials said.

The Japan-U.S. microchip trade pact, agreed in August 1991, stated that foreign microchip makers could expect a share of at least 20 percent of the Japanese semiconductor market by the end of 1992. Final statistics to be released in mid-March, however, are expected to show the foreign share falling short of the targeted level.

Takashi Kitaoka, president of the Electronic Industries Association of Japan, responded to Mori's call by pledging the industry would continue efforts to expand foreign access to the Japanese market, the officials said.

Turning to Japan's economic woes, the business executives called for further pump-priming measures to expand domestic demand.

Tadahiro Sekimoto, head of the Japan Electronic Industry Development Association, asked for information-related investment as part of the government's investment in public works, the officials said. Mori indicated he would consider the request favorably, saying, "it is important to invest in new fields like information."

Okinawans To Appeal in U.S. for Withdrawal

OW2402052093 Naha NHK Radio in Japanese 2212 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Text] A civic group in Okinawa that publicizes problems arising from U.S. military bases in Okinawa to people at home and abroad by publishing a monthly magazine will visit the United States in April to appeal to Americans for the scaling back and withdrawal of U.S. military bases in Okinawa. The civic group, to be led by Yoichi Iha, editor of the monthly OKINAWA and secretary general of the Chubu District Labor Union Consultative Council, is composed of 19 peace activists. They held a news conference yesterday in the Okinawa Prefectural Government building. Explaining their planned visit to the United States, they said that they had asked peace organizations and churches across the United States since last year to arrange their appeal activities in the United States.

They will visit five major American cities, including San Francisco and Washington, from 11 April to 4 May to explain at peace centers in those cities about problems arising from U.S. military bases in Okinawa. They also plan to appeal in front of the White House for the withdrawal of U.S. military bases from Okinawa, and plan to meet with Mr. Tim Wirth, assistant secretary of state for oceans and international environmental and scientific affairs, and high-ranking military officers to appeal for the withdrawal of U.S. military bases from Okinawa by explaining to them the present situation of of those bases.

Russian General Urges Caution Over Islands

OW2402120593 Tokyo KYODO in English 1131 GMT 24 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 24 KYODO—A Russian general Wednesday issued a caution concerning Japan's demands for the return of four Russian-held islands off Hokkaido. Lt. Gen. Andrey Ivanovich Nikolayev, speaking at a joint Japan-Russia military seminar in Tokyo, said, "unjust territorial claims will make Russia uneasy."

Nikolayev, first deputy chief of staff of the armed forces, added he expects the leaders of the two countries to solve the issue through talks. The territorial dispute involves the islands of Etorofu, Kunashiri, Shikotan and the Habomai group, located northeast of Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido. Soviet troops seized the islands at the end of World War II.

Nikolayev's remarks concerning Russia's new military doctrine drafted in May 1992 suggested a pullback from the original wording that pledged unconditional renunciation of the right of preemptive nuclear attacks. If other nuclear powers renounce the policy of preemptive nuclear attack, Russia would do likewise, Nikolayev said.

Nikolayev said the draft of the new doctrine has been finalized by the presidential security council and is going to be discussed by the legislature which may adopt it soon.

Some 40 officials as well as military officers attended the first day of the two-day seminar, which is the first personnel exchange between defense authorities of the two countries.

Canada's McDougall: Yeltsin Invitation 'Priority'

OW2402073893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0722 GMT 24 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 25 [as received] KYODO—Support for Russian President Boris Yeltsin, including an invitation to the Group of Seven (G-7) Tokyo Summit in July, is an urgent international priority, Canada's secretary of state for external affairs said Wednesday [24 February]. Barbara McDougall, speaking at the Japan National Press Club, said she urged Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa to include Yeltsin "in some format" at the July meeting of the leaders of Japan, Canada, the United States, France, Germany, Italy, and Britain.

McDougall, who met Miyazawa on Tuesday, said, "Canada believes deeply that support for President Yeltsin is essential to world stability.... We are agreed that reforms in Russia must be successful, but it is a difficult time for President Yeltsin now (and) I urged the prime minister to invite (Yeltsin) to the G-7 summit."

The minister said she understood the reluctance on Japan's part to include Yeltsin while a territorial issue exists between the two countries, but suggested that international stability must be seen as the more important aspect of Russian responses to the rest of the world. Canada, she added, supports Japan's claim to four islands off Hokkaido occupied by the Soviet Union at the end of World War II, "but this does not undermine the need to support Mr. Yeltsin and his reform process."

Miyazawa gave a "thoughtful" response to her suggestion that Yeltsin must be invited to Tokyo in July, but did not offer a specific answer on the topic, she said.

McDougall also said Canada welcomes Japan's sending of peacekeeping troops to Cambodia, adding she would be meeting with Defense Agency Chief Toshio Nakayama later Wednesday to discuss ways of sharing Canada's vast experience in international and U.N. peacekeeping. Pointing out that Canada has participated in almost every international peacekeeping operation since the 1940s, and now has nearly 5,000 troops in operations around the world, McDougall said Japan's decision to "share the burden" is "welcomed as a part of (its) international responsibility."

On Bosnia, McDougall said Canada welcomed the U.S. decision to support airlifting of relief supplies to the embattled country and suggested that if asked, Canada would "consider" taking part in the operation.

She said, however, that Canada already has assigned 1,200 peacekeepers to protecting relief corridors into Sarajevo and would need to examine any participation in an airlift in terms of its own resources.

"Our view is that every effort should be made to assist people who are suffering and we will consider (joining an airlift) on its own merits and in the context of our own capabilities."

McDougall, in Japan to meet with senior leaders over the past two days, will leave for Hong Kong and then Cambodia on Thursday.

Earlier, in a speech to the Japan-Canada Society and the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Japan, McDougall pointed to the need for Japan and Canada to cooperate across a wide range of endeavors, stretching from international peacekeeping to cultural exchanges. Calling the two countries "natural partners" because of their commitment to global peace, McDougall outlined several areas of potential international cooperation.

On peacekeeping, she said Japan's leaders have shown "vision and determination" in bringing Japan into the peacekeeping arena with the dispatch of troops to Cambodia and where "peacekeepers from both countries now stand side-by-side."

She also congratulated U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata for a "singular contribution" to the global refugee problem, an area where Canada has long taken a lead in accepting refugees as new citizens.

Noticing that global security requires stable partnerships, she said Japan and Canada should work to build a regional framework "to meet the challenges that Asia-Pacific expansion and development are creating," including a North Pacific security forum and a strengthened Asia Pacific economic cooperation forum. "We have to remain outward-looking, politically and economically. Isolationism, inward-looking unilateralism and excessive national self-absorption are recipes for repeating the mistakes of the past," she said.

"My message to Japan is a simple one: recognize your strength and share our experience and abilities, just we recognize our strength and share your experience and abilities. "Japan and Canada make a good team, precisely because of our experience, our networks of important relationships that we have each carefully developed, and our shared aspirations (for peace)."

Praises Tokyo Role in UN Efforts

OW2402121093 Tokyo KYODO in English 1135 GMT 24 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 24 KYODO—Canada's Secretary of State for External Affairs Barbara McDougall on Wednesday welcomed Japan's decision to join UN-led peacekeeping operations, Defense Agency officials said. McDougall, in a meeting with Defense Agency chief Toshio Nakayama, pointed out that the peacekeeping efforts are important for world peace and stability, the officials said. They quoted the Canadian Foreign Minister as saying that by sending peacekeeping troops to Cambodia, Japan has shown it will take part in other peacekeeping activities elsewhere.

Nakayama told McDougall that Japan is doing its best to achieve successful results in Cambodian peacekeeping operations. Japan sent a 600-member engineering contingent from the Self-Defense Forces last fall to join UN peacekeeping activities in Cambodia, the first overseas deployment of troops since World War II.

Three Canadian officers in charge of Canada's peacekeeping operations accompanied McDougall in her meeting with Nakayama, the officials said. The officers will meet Japan's ceasefire monitoring personnel in Tokyo on Thursday. They will then go to Sapporo to visit SDF personnel who are scheduled to replace the first batch of Japanese peacekeepers in Cambodia, they said.

McDougall, who arrived in Japan on Monday for talks with Japanese leaders, leaves Tokyo on Thursday to continue her Asian swing to Hong Kong and Cambodia.

Tokyo To Dispatch Fact-Finders to Mozambique

OW2402131893 Tokyo KYODO in English 1306 GMT 24 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 24 KYODO—Japan will send a fact-finding mission to Mozambique as early as next week to study the possibility of participation by Japanese civilians in United Nations-led peacekeeping activities there, government officials said Wednesday. Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono has instructed the Foreign Ministry to arrange the dispatching of the mission, they said.

A final government decision on whether or not Japan will join U.N.-led peacekeeping operations in the southern African nation will therefore come later than mid-March, after the mission returns, they said. Japan, however, is unlikely to dispatch any Self-Defense Forces (SDF) personnel, reflecting the reluctance of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and Kono, government sources said.

According to Foreign Ministry sources, the government mission is expected to consist of less than 10 officials from the ministry, Defense Agency and the government's International Peace Cooperation Headquarters. They will stay in Mozambique for about 10 days to hold talks with U.N. officials, the sources said.

The U.N. has informally asked Tokyo to supply 50 to 60 troops for transportation coordination and ceasefire monitoring duties to the 7,500-troop U.N. peacekeeping mission.

The Foreign Ministry and the prime minister's official residence (Kantei) are reportedly at odds over the dispatch of SDF personnel to Mozambique. Ministry officials have said that Japan should consider participation in peacekeeping activities not only in Asia but in other areas as well and that the operations in Mozambique meet the five principles of its International Peace Cooperation Law.

Japan sent a 600-member ground SDF corps of engineers to Cambodia last September, the first overseas deployment of Japanese troops since World War II. But Kono, Miyazawa's chief of staff, has repeatedly warned against rushing to expand SDF participation in U.N. peacekeeping operations before winning solid public support for its dispatch to Cambodia.

Tokyo Welcomes Inauguration of ROK'S Kim

OW2402085493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0843 GMT 24 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 24 KYODO—Japanese Ambassador to South Korea Toshio Goto is to represent Japan at Thursday's inauguration of President-elect Kim Yongsam, the government said Wednesday.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono said Japan "heartily welcomes" incoming President Kim. Kono said he plans to send a congratulatory telegram on Thursday in his capacity as acting foreign minister. Kono is standing in for Michio Watanabe, who was hospitalized on February 15.

Opposition Parties Agree on Tax Cut Plan

OW2202131193 Tokyo KYODO in English 1251 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 22 KYODO—The policy makers of three Japanese opposition parties Monday agreed to propose a 4.26 trillion yen tax cut package in the current Diet session in an attempt to prop up the ailing economy, party officials said. The three parties are the Social Democratic Party, Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party.

Revenue to compensate for the huge tax reduction will be raised by issuing deficit-covering bonds worth 4.1 trillion yen, to be due in five years or less, the officials said.

The opposition parties are to call on the ruling Liberal Democratic Party to discuss the package this week after the details are finalized Tuesday, they said. The package includes a 3.8 trillion yen income tax and 460 billion yen in housing-related tax reductions and tax incentives for capital investment by smaller corporations, they said.

Miyazawa, LDP Agree on More Pump Priming

OW2302080993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0726 GMT 23 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 23 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and a top ruling party official agreed Tuesday that additional pump-priming measures should be implemented to prop up the flagging economy after the 1993 fiscal budget is enacted, officials said.

Miyazawa met with Hiroshi Mitsuzuka, chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party's [LDP] Policy Affairs Research Council, to discuss measures to cope with the recent steep appreciation of the yen and the economic slowdown, the officials said.

They said Miyazawa instructed Mitsuzuka, who heads the group that must deal with the economic slump, to conduct surveys on the present condition of the domestic economy and hear views from experts on measures to shore up the economy.

Mitsuzuka told Miyazawa that tax cuts, including reductions of housing and corporate capital investment, would be effective means of stimulating the economy, the officials said.

The officials said Mitsuzuka's group will work out specific measures, including procurement of equipment by government ministries and agencies and purchases of computers for state-run hospitals.

Spokesman Denies Deficit-Financing Bonds Plan

OW2402043093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0401 GMT 24 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 24 KYODO—The government is not planning to issue deficit-financing bonds to offset possible tax cuts, the government's spokesman said Wednesday.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono made the comment in response to a published remark by an anonymous ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) executive that deficit-financing bonds are needed to offset tax reductions on items such as housing investments. The tax cuts are being considered as part of the LDP's package to stimulate the economy.

Kono told a news conference that the LDP executive, who was quoted anonymously in a front-page story Wednesday in the mass-circulation newspaper ASAHI SHIMBUN, had assured him in a telephone conversation that he does not personally favor relying on deficit-spending bonds. The executive said that only a minority of LDP lawmakers support issuing such bonds, Kono said.

The government stopped issuing deficit-financing bonds three years ago in a bid to end reliance on debt to be paid off by future generations. The Finance Ministry has resisted pressure to resume issuing such bonds.

Hayashi Supports Rate Decrease To Aid Recovery

OW2402102293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0933 GMT 24 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 24 KYODO—Finance Minister Yoshiro Hayashi expressed confidence Wednesday the Bank of Japan's discount rate cut earlier this month will have favorable effects on the economy. Speaking at the House of Representatives Budget Committee during debate on the 1993 fiscal budget, Hayashi said he was waiting to see the effect of the rate cut.

The central bank slashed the key lending rate by 0.75 percentage point to 2.5 percent per annum on February 4.

Hayashi told the session it was not necessarily the final cut, suggesting there may be another reduction in the future. "Theoretically, it is not correct to say there is no chance of an additional rate cut," he said.

Opposition Camp Urges Budget Bill Revision

OW2402133393 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 23 Feb 93

[From "the NHK News" program]

[Text] Saying that it has become more necessary than ever to introduce economic measures due to the increased value of the yen, Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] Secretary General Kajiyama, in a news conference this morning stressed that the fiscal 1993 budget bill must be approved soon.

In the news conference, Secretary General Kajiyama touched on the increase in the value of the yen and said we are not in a position to delay approval of the budget bill. He repeatedly stressed the need to approve the budget bill soon, saying that due to the recent hike in the value of the yen, the introduction of economic measures had become more necessary than before.

Regarding the fiscal 1993 budget bill, the LDP proposed at a board meeting of the lower house Budget Committee this morning, to take a ballot on 2 March. Since the opposition side rejected the proposal, however, they decided to continue discussions.

From a standpoint of approving the budget bill before the end of this fiscal year, the LDP, at today's board meeting, made a proposal regarding Diet schedules saying that the party wanted to continue general interpellation and discussions at subcommittees, even over the weekend, and to take a ballot on 2 March immediately after holding the final general question session.

In response, the opposition side said that sufficient time should be spent for a general interpellation and for intensive questioning about the Sagawa Kyubin scandal and other matters.

Now, we will talk about a movement of the opposition side to call for a revision of the budget bill. The three opposition parties—the Social Democratic Party of Japan, Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party—held a meeting of Diet policy committee chairmen today and agreed to officially submit a demand for reductions of income and other taxes, which amount to some 4.26 trillion yen in total, at an opposition-LDP Diet policy committee chairmen's meeting, scheduled to be held on 24 February.

Moreover, Japan Communist Party Diet Policy Committee Chairman Teramae, in a news conference held this morning, explained that his party would call for a two trillion yen income tax reduction, which could be covered by revenue from correcting the unfair tax system and other matters without relying on deficit-covering bonds.

In response to the opposition side's call for revision of the budget bill, LDP Secretary General Kajiyama, at a meeting of four top LDP executives' held after the board meeting, said he could do nothing about the demand for a revision at this stage, and that he would observe the future actions of the opposition side. In this way, he explained his view that the LDP would watch the moves of the opposition side for the time being.

Opposition Presents Budget Plan, Urges Tax Cut

OW2402051793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0449 GMT 24 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 24 KYODO—Three opposition parties pressed the ruling party Wednesday to accept their joint fiscal 1993 budget bill calling for a tax reduction of over 4 trillion yen, opposition party sources said. The main opposition Social Democratic Party (SDP), together with Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP), made the pitch at a meeting of chairmen of Diet affairs committees.

The opposition camp urged the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) to hold another meeting of Diet affairs committee chairmen next Monday and respond to their demand, the party sources said. While noting the need for the LDP's proposed 72.35 trillion yen budget for fiscal 1993 to be written into law by the end of the current fiscal year, LDP Diet Affairs Committee Chairman Tsutomu Kawara reportedly promised the governing party will give due consideration to the opposition budget plan.

Kawara was quoted as saying that measures must be taken to prop up the foundering Japanese economy. "We will consider (the opposition plan) sincerely but carefully," Kawara said.

The opposition budget bill features an income tax reduction of 3.8 trillion yen and other tax cuts worth 464 billion yen through various policy measures.

Under the income tax cut plan, taxpayers would receive a total of 2.8 billion yen in rebates and 1 trillion yen in year-end refunds through institutional revisions. One of the main proposals is to cut tax related to housing.

The three opposition parties are seeking the issuance of deficit-covering bonds to pay for the tax cuts.

At Wednesday's Diet affairs committee chairmen meeting, the LDP said it and the opposition hold the same view on the current economic slump and sought cooperation for early passage of the budget for fiscal 1993, starting on April 1, the opposition sources said.

Responding to an LDP promise to scrutinize the opposition budget plan through official channels, the SDP warned that it may boycott Diet deliberations next week depending on the LDP's reply, the sources said. The LDP wants the budget bill to clear the House of Representatives budget committee and the full lower house by March 2, according to LDP sources. If the bill is not passed by the April 1 deadline due to opposition resistance over key political issues, a stopgap budget must be compiled.

In a related development, the Japanese Communist Party also gave the LDP its own fiscal 1993 budget bill calling for a tax reduction of 2 trillion yen.

LDP Proposes Voting on Budget on 5 March

OW2402092193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0905 GMT 24 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 24 KYODO—The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) has set its sights on March 5 to push through the fiscal 1993 budget after unveiling plans for full parliamentary debate, Diet sources said Wednesday. At a meeting of directors of the House of Representatives Budget Committee, the LDP proposed an eight-day intensive budgetary debate including Wednesday's deliberations.

Under the plan, no debates are scheduled for Saturday and Sunday on the 72.35 trillion yen budget bill for fiscal 1993, starting April 1.

Opposition parties said they will examine the proposed timetable and make their views known at a lower house meeting later in the day, officials said.

The LDP also promised the opposition that by March 4—the day for a final question-and-answer session on the budget—it will say who else should be called to the Diet for sworn testimony over the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin money-and-gangsters scandal, they said. Earlier this week, the LDP accepted an opposition demand to summon one more witness to the Diet to give testimony under oath.

Ex-LDP Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa and former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita testified as sworn witnesses on their alleged roles in the scandal last week. But a third witness, Kiyoshi Sagawa, founder of Sagawa Kyubin Co., failed to show because of poor health.

Survey Indicates Further Slump in Spending

OW2302131593 Tokyo KYODO in English 1224 GMT 23 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 23 KYODO—A government survey indicated Tuesday that consumer spending will be slow to revive throughout 1993 as a result of aftereffects of the "bubble economy," which it said inflated consumer product sales.

Sales at retailers in the 1987 to 1992 period of the bubble economy came to 77.6 trillion yen, 6.3 trillion yen larger than an estimate calculated on a long-term ordinary trend, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) survey said. The gap in sales, which accounts for about 50 percent of the annual average, reflects the amount swollen by the bubble economy, MITI officials said.

Similarly, they said automobile sales came to 22.55 million vehicles in 1988-1992, 4.83 million higher than long-term calculations.

The country's sales of consumer products and automobiles in 1992 were still 7 percent and 13 percent higher than long-term estimates, respectively, the officials said.

Tanahashi Criticizes Oil Firm's Currency Losses

OW2202093993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0750 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 22 KYODO—Japan's vice trade minister Monday criticized Showa Shell Sekiyu K.K. for its speculation in foreign currency forward contracts, which resulted in losses of an estimated 125 billion yen in 1992.

"It was regrettable that Japan's leading oil company speculated" with amounts of money that were many times its actual foreign exchange needs, and suffered such huge losses, said Yuji Tanahashi, vice minister of international trade and industry, at a press conference.

Tanahashi disclosed that his ministry made unofficial inquiries into other major oil companies on Sunday and found few companies played on the foreign exchange markets other than to meet immediate real demand.

MITI: Industrial Production To Remain Flat

OW2402090993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0753 GMT 24 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 24 KYODO—Japan's industrial production will remain dull for the time being and recovery of corporate confidence take some time, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said Wednesday. Analyzing production activities at factories and mines in 1992, the ministry said that despite stock adjustments throughout the year with production and shipments declining below 1991 levels inventories remained at higher levels and need further adjustment.

Industrial production last year posted a drop for the first time in six years, down 6.1 percent from 1991 levels, while shipments also marked a year-on-year fall for the first time in 10 years, down 4.8 percent. By destination, shipments overseas edged up 0.9 percent in 1992 from 1991, but those for domestic markets down 5.5 percent.

The situation still required production adjustments due mainly to poor consumer demand, excessive supply of producers' goods, weak product markets, and higher levels of inventories, the ministry said. Although the need for further inventory adjustments may put pressure on companies to reduce output, however, it could be difficult for them to cut production further, it said.

Under the circumstances, output is unlikely to either sharply decline or remarkably increase for some time, it said.

Drastic Restructuring Expected in Auto Industry

OW2402092293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0759 GMT 24 Feb 93

["News roundup" by Isao Ikariya]

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 24 KYODO—After two years of slumping sales, Japanese automakers are betting on weathering another tough year through business tie-ups which may herald a major industry shakeout, analysts and industry officials say. Some even forecast there will be only four automakers in Japan in the future—there are currently 11—saying the wave of tie-ups is a prelude to an era of mergers.

The first sign came last December when Isuzu Motors Ltd. announced it would withdraw from passenger car production because of poor profits, bringing the number of passenger car manufacturers down to eight. Isuzu's withdrawal involves a deal with Honda Motor Co., under which Isuzu will sell passenger cars made by Honda under the Isuzu name in Japan, while providing Honda with its sport utility four-wheel-drive vehicles for sale in the United States.

Nissan Motor Co. and Mazda Motor Corp. are also negotiating a tie-up to buy commercial vehicles from each other to cut production costs. "There could be a number of tie-ups not only on finished cars, but also on parts that would be a departure from stereotyped thinking," said Nissan president Yoshifumi Tsuji.

"Many negotiations are now simultaneously underway on 'give-and-take' tie-ups," said an executive at one automaker.

Some analysts say these negotiations could develop into capital tie-ups and mergers as give-and-take alliances are not enough to resolve structural problems. "It stands to reason to think that these negotiations, if designed for a substantial restructuring, will lead to those for cross shareholdings and mergers and acquisitions," said an auto industry analyst at one brokerage house-affiliated think tank. "I can't say when, but capital tie-ups will be taking place in any event and there will be a major industry shakeout," the analyst said.

The NIKKAN KOGYO SHIMBUN, an industrial daily, reported last month that Nissan and Mazda had begun studying the possibility of a capital tie-up, but both automakers flatly denied the report. But analysts and auto industry officials say it is a likely scenario and agree there are too many Japanese automakers competing with each other in the crowded Japanese market.

"We have to get out of excessive competition to go ahead with mergers to bring the number down to three or four," one industry official said.

A senior executive at one major commercial bank, noting the slump is structural and could not be resolved without realignment, said, "now is the time for the auto industry to reorganize itself through capital tie-ups." Banks traditionally serve as matchmakers for corporate mergers.

Measured by capital relations, the 11 automakers are divided into seven groups—one led by Toyota Motor Corp. comprising three companies, another three headed by Nissan, and the five others, including Honda Motor Co., Mitsubishi Motors Corp., and Mazda Motor Corp. In another interpretation, the 11 companies can be simply split into Toyota, which commands a dominant market share in Japan, and the rest.

MITI Opposes Proposed Environmental Bill

OW2302144093 Tokyo KYODO in English 1319 GMT 23 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 23 KYODO—The introduction of an environment tax planned by the Environment Agency has faced strong opposition from the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), government sources reported Tuesday. The sources said MITI's opposition has jeopardized the Environment Agency's plan to submit a bill on environmental protection to the current session of the Diet for approval.

The legislation was intended to pave the way for the levying of a new tax for preservation of the environment, they said. The sources said MITI's opposition is directed at a clause calling for the government to levy the tax if necessary to secure funds for environmental preservation.

In face of MITI's opposition, the Environment Agency has toned down the clause to say the government will try to seek the people's understanding and cooperation for the new tax, the sources said. It still is unknown whether the agency can complete the bill by March 12, the deadline for presenting the legislation to the Diet, the sources said.

North Korea

Delegation Chief Addresses IAEA Meeting

SK2302232893 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 23 Feb 93

[Text] The head of the DPRK delegation spoke at the February Board of Governors meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] on 22 February. In his speech he stated:

The DPRK delegation cannot help being very regretful about the fact that the report submitted to the current Board of Governors meeting contains contents which lead one to suspect our country's nuclear activity, despite the fact that the IAEA's nonregular inspections of our country are conducted in a normal manner with our active and sincere cooperation.

After effectuating the safeguard agreement, we submitted the initial report on the inventory of nuclear matter and the design notification, which we were supposed to submit according to the safeguard agreement, to the IAEA far ahead of the deadline. Meanwhile, we voluntarily submitted to the IAEA the particulars of the nuclear facilities which were not the sites subject to inspection. We not only actively cooperated with the inspection activities of the inspectors but showed IAEA officials and inspectors the nuclear facilities that are not subject to safeguards and even the regional facilities [chiyok sisolmul] as well as the nuclear facilities subject to safeguards.

Six rounds of nonregular inspections have been conducted in a normal manner to date, the general provisions part of the supplementary detailed rules and the three facilities appendices [sisol purok] have been validated, with four facilities appendices being agreed on at present. [habuijunge itta]

At the previous Board of Governors meetings, the director general and many board governors of the IAEA welcomed this, appraising it as showing the transparency of our nuclear activity.

The IAEA director general's report states that there is principled disparity [wonchikchogin purilchichom] between our initial report and the IAEA's inspection result. As for the principled disparity which was made an issue of by the IAEA, it is not the principled disparity between our initial report and the IAEA's inspection result but the disparity arising from the calculation method, interpretation, and evaluation between our operation personnel and the inspection team. This disparity also results from the inspectors' error and irresponsibility. They did not take into account the specific operation features and conditions of our nuclear facilities. During the sixth round of nonregular inspections, the inspection team admitted this and conducted a technical and working negotiation with our operators to clarify the disparity that resulted from the calculation method, interpretation, and evaluation. In the negotiation, the cause of the disparity was clarified, and based on this, agreement was reached to review the IAEA's inspection result and to continue discussions during the next round of inspections. We think that this matter will be settled satisfactorily in the next round of inspections and negotiations. We came to be convinced of this all the more through the process of negotiations between the IAEA and specialists of our country held yesterday and the day before yesterday with the participation of our atomic power industry minister and the IAEA director general. The IAEA director general expressed his desire to review the IAEA's inspection result during this negotiation period. Because our initial report truly reflects our nuclear activity, we believe that the accuracy and safety will certainly be clarified.

Nevertheless, some of the IAEA people turned away from the fact that the disparity arising from the calculation method, interpretation, and evaluation can be resolved through their technical and working negotiations with us. Insistent on the result of the inspection team's inspection result, they are using it to arouse suspicion of our nuclear activity.

They notified the UN Security Council member states of the inspection results even before holding technological working-level negotiations with us to clarify the results. Furthermore, they unilaterally made public the inspection results unjustly.

This is a flagrant violation of the safeguards accord which stipulates that the IAEA shall not make public any material it obtained in connection with implementation of the accord nor shall it turn over this material to any state, organization, or figure.

We cannot but doubt the intention of some figures of the IAEA for doing this.

Now we must point out that when the questions raised in the course of inspection are being clarified through negotiations, some people in the IAEA artificially linked these questions with the inspection of pure military facilities, which have nothing to do with nuclear activities, without any scientific and technological basis.

In a speech this morning, IAEA director general stated that the military facilities, which are not related to nuclear facilities, are nuclear facilities, and demanded special inspections of these facilities.

This demand cannot be justified in any event. The IAEA insisted that special inspections should be pushed ahead [chokbal sikida] because we refused the visit of high-level IAEA officials.

However, facts proved that the IAEA secretariat itself is building barriers lest the proposed visit be realized. Some officials in the IAEA do not conceal the fact that the demand for inspection of such military facilities is based on intelligence materials offered by a third country.

The two sites that the IAEA wants to inspect are military facilities which have nothing to do whatsoever with nuclear activities. Moreover, no scientific and legal relationship [kwahakchok mit pomyulchok yongwan] exists between disparity and these military facilities.

We have never refused the visit of IAEA officials to nuclear facilities. The issue is that some officials in the IAEA secretariat, going against the agreement with us, are calling for inspection of military facilities irrelevant to nuclear activities in a bid to confirm the hypothesis [kasangul hwagin hada] which has been formulated on the basis of concocted intelligence offered by a third country.

With modern technology, such photographic materials can be freely fabricated. This means that the IAEA is going to use intelligence materials of a certain country for inspection, violating the safeguards accord and its regulations and decisions.

The issue of using intelligence materials offered by a third country for inspection is not stipulated in the safeguards accord, in the IAEA's regulations and in any document adopted by its board of governors. In particular, this issue was opposed by many board members during the board of governors meeting in December 1991.

If the IAEA uses intelligence offered by a third country for inspection, the unique nature of the current IAEA inspection system will change, and the structure and contents of LNFC-LRC 153—the standard safeguards accord provision [pyojun tanbo hyopchongmun] that constitutes the legal basis of the inspection—should be totally changed. This arouses the serious worries of us all.

If the IAEA utilizes intelligence materials of a third country in inspections this will lead to legalizing one member nation's espionage activity against other member nations and a certain nation's tyranny within the IAEA. Furthermore, the IAEA's attempt to inspect our military facilities, which have nothing to do with the agency's nuclear activity, based on the intelligence materials fabricated by a third country, is a serious political and military issue which is directly connected with the maneuvers by the country hostile to us.

If we allow the IAEA to inspect military facilities, which are not related to its nuclear activity, this constitutes the starting point of exposing all of our military facilities to our enemies. Therefore, we can never allow the inspection of military facilities having nothing to do with the nuclear activity, which may endanger our country's security.

To thoroughly ensure fairness in the agency's inspection activity the intelligence materials of a certain country should not be utilized in inspections. If the intelligence material of a certain country is used in an inspection, a wrong precedent of more illegal and coercive maneuvers being applied even to other member countries may be created within the agency in the future. This is why we resolutely oppose it.

Such a stand of ours fully accords with the interests of non-nuclear countries which have rejected using the intelligence material of a third country in an inspection and resolutely opposed any element that may allow a certain country to perpetrate an arbitrary act or tyranny within the IAEA.

We hope that the IAEA secretariat should not act based on the intelligence fabricated and provided by a country hostile to us, but will pay attention to verifying scientifically and technologically the correctness and completeness of the initial report within the framework of irregular inspection and without any biased view through scientific and technological negotiations with us.

NODONG SINMUN Urges U.S. To Withdraw Forces in ROK

SK2402052393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0509 GMT 24 Feb 93

Pyongyang, February 24 (KCNA)—The U.S. forces and nuclear weapons must be immediately withdrawn from South Korea, urges NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article today. Only when the U.S. troops and nuclear weapons are taken out of South Korea, is it possible to remove the most dangerous hotbed of war in Asia and create a phase favourable to peace on the Korean peninsula and in the rest of Asia, the article says, and goes on:

The United States has no ground to keep its troops and nuclear weapons in South Korea. Because the east-west cold war system has collapsed and the nuclear confrontation between big powers has come to an end. As the United States vsaid that the pullout of foreign troops was a key to the settlement of regional disputes and, in actuality, the disengagement of foreign troops and nuclear arms cut have become a universal trend of time, foreign troops and nuclear weapons must be withdrawn from South Korea, too.

For the United States to withdraw the nuclear weapons from South Korea is also its obligation under the nuclear non-proliferation treaty. It seriously contravenes the basic spirit and demand of the treaty that the United States has deployed a large number of nuclear weapons and is presenting a nuclear threat to the DPRK, another signatory to the treaty and a non-nuclear nation.

The United States must withdraw its troops and nuclear weapons also in view of the new developments of the Korean peninsula where the agreement on reconciliation, nonaggression, cooperation and exchange and the joint declaration on denuclearization were adopted between the North and the South and effectuated. It is brazen for the United States to speak ill of the DPRK with outcries over the fictitious "nuclear suspicion" and scheme to keep the nuclear weapons in South Korea, scrapping even the deceptive reduction program of its forces in South Korea.

SKNDF Chief in Cuba Addresses Koreans in U.S.

SK2402105293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1024 GMT 24 Feb 93

[Text] Pyongyang, February 24 (KCNA)—Yi Chong-sang, chief of the Cuba mission of the South Korean National Democratic Front [SKNDF], speaking in Havana on February 18, called upon the Korean residents in the United States to join in the campaign for the release of all prisoners of conscience in South Korea. He said the prisoners serving the longest term in the world, more than 40 years, as victims to the Cold War and division, are still suffering behind bars in South Korea. It is a hard fact that the total jail terms of more than 50 long-term prisoners in Taejon prison exceed 1,500 years," he noted.

"If Kim Yong-sam truly intends to herald a 'new era' and shape 'civilian politics' different from that of the 'Fifth and Sixth Republics', he should set free all the prisoners of conscience and long-term prisoners," he said. He called upon the U.S-resident Koreans desirous of a democratized homeland and a reunified nation to take an active part in the sacred and humanitarian campaign for the release of all the long-term prisoners and prisoners of conscience so that they could live with their families for the rest of their life.

Korean, Japanese Businessmen Discuss Relations

SK2302233393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1505 GMT 23 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, February 21 (KNS-KCNA)—A new year friendship gathering of Korean and Japanese businessmen took place here on February 19. Speaking at the gathering, Chon Yon-sik, vice-chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) and chairman of the permanent council of the Federation of Korean Traders and Industrialists in Japan, said the federation, up to now since its formation, has worked vigorously for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country and the improvement of DPRK-Japan relations and in defence of the business rights of Korean traders and industrialists. "The friendly relations with businessmen and political figures of Japan have been further strengthened since the publication of the historic three-party joint declaration," he said.

"The United States and the South Korean authorities are trying to further strain the situation on the Korean peninsula by resuming the 'Team Spirit' joint military exercises," he said, adding: "No matter how tense and complicated the situation may be, our Korean traders and industrialists in Japan, under the guidance of the great leader generalissimo Kim Il-song and the dear leader marshal Kim Chong-il, would conduct activities to resolutely defend the socialist homeland of chuche and for peace and the Reunification of the homeland and deepen friendship, solidarity and economic exchange with peoples of all countries in the world including Japan." A speech was made at the gathering by Toshio Iijima, chairman of the East Asia Trade Research Board.

Yi Chong-ok Leads WPK Delegation to Cambodia

SK2302120293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1058 GMT 23 Feb 93

[Text] Pyongyang, February 23 (KCNA)—A delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] led by Yi Chong-ok, Politburo member of the C.C. [Central Committee], the WPK and vice-president, left here for Cambodia today. It was seen off at the airport by Choe Tae-pok, alternate Politburo member and secretary of the C.C., the WPK, and officials concerned and Chinese Ambassador to Korea Zheng Yi.

Peruvian Defense Minister-Led Group Continues Visit

Delegation Visits Mangyongdae

SK2302012093 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Text] A Republic of Peru military delegation led by His Excellency Defense Minister Victor Malca Villanueva visited Mangyongdae on 22 February. People's Armed Forces Minister O Chin-u accompanied the delegation. Listening to an explanation about the great leader's [suryong] revolutionary family and revolutionary history, the guests, who visited the old home in Mangyongdae, looked around with interest historic relics preserved carefully. The guests took pictures in memory of their visit to the old house in Mangyongdae.

On a record of impressions, the delegation head wrote that on the occasion of visiting the old home in Mangyongdae, where the great President Kim Il-song was born, he wishes President Kim Il-song, who leads the Korean people to a victory, long life. The delegation also inspected the Sohae floodgate. The delegation visited the memorial hall of fatherland liberation war victory that day.

Minister Given DPRK Award

SK2302115393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1105 GMT 23 Feb 93

[Text] Pyongyang, February 23 (KCNA)—A ceremony for awarding orders and medals of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to members of the military delegation of the Republic of Peru took place at the Mansudae Assembly Hall on February 23. Vice-president Pak Song-chol awarded Order of Friendship First-class to head of the delegation Victor Malca Villanueva, defence minister of Peru, and friendship medals to the members of the delegation.

Decree Names New Ambassador to Guinea

SK2302114993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1106 GMT 23 Feb 93

[Text] Pyongyang, February 23 (KCNA)—Han Chang-yol was appointed as ambassador EP [extraordinary and plenipotentiary] of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the Republic of Guinea, according to a decree of the DPRK Central People's Committee.

Envoy Presents Credentials in Equatorial Guinea

SK2402063493 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Text] Yom Tae-yul, our country's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Equatorial Guinea, on 18 February presented credentials to Teodoro Obiang NguEma Mbasogo, the president of this country. At the talks, the ambassador conveyed greetings from the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il to President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo.

Expressing deep thanks for this, the president asked the ambassador to convey his greetings to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il wishing for their long lives. Touching on friendship and cooperative relations between Equatorial Guinea and the DPRK, the president stressed that the people of Equatorial Guinea will actively support the Korean people's struggle for national reunification in the future, too.

Kim Il-song Sends Message to President of Guyana

SK2302051593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1658 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Text] Pyongyang, February 22 (KCNA)—Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the central committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, today sent a message of greetings to Cheddi Jagan, general secretary of the People's Progressive Party of Guyana and president of the Coopertive Republic of Guyana, on the occasion of the [number indistinct] anniversary of the proclamation of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana. The message says that the Guyanese people are [word indistinct] striving to promote the national unity, reconstruct the country and develop the economy. Expressing the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries will further develop, the message wishes the Guyanese president and people greater success in their work to build a new prosperous society.

Radio Lauds Kim Chong-il as 'Guiding Star'

SK2002041193 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2307 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Radio essay: "The Guiding Star of the Socialist Cause"]

[Text] The nation's greatest holiday has come to this land, the chuche fatherland. Our people greet the February holiday with their minds blossoming like 10 million beautiful flowers emanating a sweet scent. The nation's endless pride overflows in everyone's heart, filled with joy and happiness, singing a magnificent song of praise that echoes all over the world. Seventy million brethren: The Paektu bright star riding a swift horse has risen high above Mt. Paektu. Long live the Paektu bright star! The cheers of the swelling emotion! The entire country and land greet this day with endlessly passionate joy.

There are more than 200 countries in the world, and every country and nation enjoys its own national holidays. However, no country or nation we know of has ever experienced these passionate feelings and this joy. This ideological feeling bursting in the entire country and nation is their endless pride and self-respect in upholding the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song as the great leader [widaehan suryong] and the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il as the great leader [widaehan yongdoja] for the first time in the long national history of 50 centuries. This ideological feeling stems from the firm faith and volition that victory in the socialist cause will be inevitably achieved even if any raging wind blows in the world because they uphold the great leader [widaehan suryong] and the great leader [widaehan yongdoja].

Looking back, we see that our people have hewed out a long path of the revolution to victory by upholding the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il. In the course of the revolution our people met adversities, difficulties, and trials. Nevertheless, they have never been pessimistic, perturbed, or hesitant but have hewed out the road of revolution with firm faith and great optimism.

Conviction of sure victory is essential to overcoming hardships and trials and living a life of brilliant struggle. A firm and invariable faith in the victory of the revolution stems from the greatness of the leader [yongdoja].

We are the people upholding the great leader [suryong] and the great leader [yongdoja] who are admired around the world. The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has noted: The revolutionary history of the working class demonstrates the truth that the working class and its party can be victorious only when the working class and its party are under the leadership of their great leader [suryong].

History and the people are the fairest witnesses and recorders of the truth. The international communist movement has a history of 100 years plus a few decades. The working class and the popular masses recorded for history the valuable truth through their stormy path of struggle path that the leader and his successor determine the fate of country, nation, and revolution.

Now is the last decade of the 20th century. Several generations have lived since the banner called "socialism" fluttered in the world for the first time. The tragedy of the failure of socialism in many countries in this decade provides the serious lesson that the leader and his successor determine the fate of the socialist cause and that people without the outstanding leader are like orphans. The leader and his successor give ideology and unity to the popular masses. With their outstanding and tested leadership they are the sun of the revolution and the sun of the people leading the revolutionary struggle of the popular masses to victory while standing in their midst.

The socialist cause can be victorious only when it is guided by great ideology. This is a new era of independence in which the popular masses are for socialism. The problem of elucidating the road to socialism and communism, which no one had traveled yet, was the acute problem for mankind put forth by the times.

This acute problem, this task of the history of mankind—of which many ideologists, politicians, and philosophers throughout the history of the world, East and West, painstakingly groped and studied in the dark—has been brilliantly solved by the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, the genius of great ideas and theory who develops and enriches the revolutionary ideology of the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

Comrade Secretary Kim Chong-il's socialist theory is a completely new and original socialist theory which is centered on the popular masses, the masters of the revolution, rather than on materialism. His Excellency Kim Chong-il's socialist theory is a complete socialist theory which comprehensively clarifies and sums up all the theoretical and practical problems arising in the socialist and communist construction—from the inevitability of the appearance of socialist and communist society and of its completion to the general line of its construction and the political ways of socialist society. The completion of socialist theory by His Excellency Kim Chong-il is the most remarkable event and the most remarkable achievement in the ideological history of mankind and a great eternal monument in the history of mankind. These are remarks that extol the ideological and theoretical achievements of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il at the international meetings held in many countries including India and Japan.

As the sun radiates throughout the entire universe, boundless is the extraordinary wisdom of the dear comrade leader who most superbly solves all the problems arising in the revolution and construction and all the problems raised by the times and mankind. When hundreds of millions of people are depressed and pessimistic, groping in confusion from the whirlwind of the rapidly changing situation and rampant views and assertions, a great declaration that grabs their hearts and draws their attention shines like a flash. Independence is the life of man, the life of the nation, the life of mankind. It is an unstoppable law that mankind heads for socialism aspiring for independence. The frustration of socialism in many countries is a partial and transient phenomenon deviating from the normal track of historical development. The socialist locomotive, which derailed, will return to its normal track by the power of the popular masses coming to their senses. This declaration was made by the dear comrade leader who gave the ray of confidence as the sun does to the hundreds of millions of people who are depressed and pessimistic by analyzing the complicated world situation today with his chuche-oriented view and brilliant wisdom and elucidating the natural law. He went on to say: The party's leadership is the lifeline of the socialist cause. Ideology is the life of socialism. "The Historical Lesson of Socialist Construction and Our Party's General Line," "The Fundamental Problems of Revolutionary Party Building," and other immortal works of the dear comrade leader are extolled by many people as a great declaration which stirs the hearts of mankind into carrying out the socialist cause, as a great ray of ideology which will correct the trend of modern history, and as a textbook and a great encyclopedia in the execution of the socialist cause and the revolutionary party building. A functionary of the Mozambican Defense Ministry wrote in a poem: Being taught by Comrade Kim Chong-il, mankind will advance under the chuche banner without the slightest vicissitudes and expedite the independence of the world. The world knows that mankind should uphold him as a teacher.

The dear comrade leader who leads the revolution and mankind with the ray of his great ideology and theory is the great guiding star of the socialist cause and a great teacher of mankind. Wherever the great ideology gives off its ray, great reality develops without exception, confirming the greatness of the ideology and theory. The proud reality in which our party has been strengthened and developed to be an ever-victorious revolutionary party under the banner of modeling the entire party on the chuche idea, the great reality in which tens of thousands of people have been brought up to be communist revolutionaries under the banner of ideological remodeling and in which ideological walls are built high preventing any liberalization wind from infiltrating, the brilliant reality in which our revolutionary armed forces are brought up to be the army of the party and the leader, iron-strong ranks of one-a-match-for-a hundred! Truly, all the ideology, theories, and strategic and tactic policies put forth by the dear comrade leader invariably give birth to great reality.

Truly, the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il is the great guiding sun who gives the working popular masses rays of revolutionary victory and is the symbol of the victory and honor of the socialist cause. The powerful might of the main forces of the revolution and the banner of the victory of the socialist cause exist where there is great leadership.

Kim Il-song! Kim Chong-il! Single-minded unity! They resound in victorious work shops, honorable meeting places, sites of socialist construction, guardposts, and anywhere else in this country. This demonstrates the boldness and greatness of the main forces of the revolution who carry out the socialist cause. The powerful main forces of the revolution and single-minded unity among the leader [suryong], the party, and the masses are an eternal source for the sure victory and invincibility of the socialist cause.

Our single-minded unity is unity based on a great center the unity and cohesion of the leader [suryong], the warriors, the party, and the people combined in a single blood line which converges on a single idea. No other nation or party in the East or West has been able to achieve this startling and momentous single-minded unity of the leader [suryong], the party, and the masses. This is unthinkable apart from the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's outstanding and tested leadership.

The party is a unit filled with the main forces of the revolution, and if the party is strong, so are the main forces of the revolution. Many people of the world lament, learning a serious lesson from building socialist ruling parties. However, "Long live the ever-victorious, invincible Workers Party of Korea!" resounds in our country.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il presented the unitariness of ideas and leadership as a fundamental principle in party building. In the course of establishing a unitary ideological system, he has made the entire party an ideologically pure body that breathes and acts like one based on a single idea and single will and strengthened unity and cohesion in the party ranks by all means. He presented the slogan which calls for imbuing the entire party with the chuche idea and the slogan which calls for making all party cells loyal cells, slogans which no other leader [yongdoja] or party has presented, and, thus, made the party members chuche-type communist revolutionaries, loyalists, and dutiful children who loyally uphold the leadership of the party and the leader. As a result, our party is known as a powerful militant party.

Truly, the honorable appearance of our party, an ever-victorious, invincible party, is related to the leadership of our dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il. The might of the main forces of the revolution derives from the blood relations among the party, the leader [suryong], and the people.

Will our father come today? Will Comrade Kim Chong-il come tomorrow? All the people, young and old, are warm-heartedly singing this song. This song depicts our people who always—when awake or asleep, during joyful or difficult times—adore the dear comrade leader. This fully describes the blood relations between our party and our people.

The relations between our party and our people are relations between a father and his sons and daughters and blood relations with which one takes care of the other's destiny. They have a common destiny in which the party sincerely serves the people and in which the people loyally uphold the party's leadership.

The greatest love that a father can give to his sons and daughters is to well educate them to lead them to correct paths, and the greatest love that the party can give to the people is to arm them with independent ideas. The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il who has boundlessly warm love for the people gives priority to the ideological revolution and raises people into independent people and genuine communist revolutionaries filled with the chuche blood. Thousands or tens of thousands of people like Kim Hyok, Cha Kwang-su, (Kim Chun), or Yi Su-pok, thousands or tens of thousands of people like grandmother (Taesung) or the 10 party members in Nagwon, numerous unheralded heroes and unheralded meritorious people, and numerous people like Chong Chun-sil have been raised in his bosom of great love and have been loyally upholding our party's cause.

Truly, the love for the people can spring from devoted service to them. Every time we climb to the peak of Moran and view the landscape of Pyongyang where many grand monuments have been massively erected, we warmly affirm the fact that the dear Comrade leader's will to "serve the people" and the might of our party and people in single-hearted unity are brilliantly displayed as it is.

Warmly inspired in all creations—such as the Changgwang Street, Kwangbok Street, Tongil Street, Munsu Street, other modernized streets, sports and cultural facilities, and facilities for public health—elected in the era of the Workers Party of Korea is the dear Comrade leader's lofty will that he will go to the end of this world if it is for the people, and that he will even make flowers bloom on the rocks and grasp stars out of the sky if it is for them.

The evenly bestowed faith, love, devoted service spirit, and other people-oriented policies of our party for the popular masses and its motherly interest and care upon our people have brought forth the popular masses's absolute trust in the party and have firmly linked the party to the masses as one.

Wherever our people are, there is the slogan: "What the party decides, we will do." Our people repeat this slogan throughout this country. This is the solemn pledge of our people who maintain the faith that our party is their destiny and happiness, and who want to consummate the socialist cause with the party forever. This cause is our people's life and destiny.

"Let us become the eight rifles and eight bombs that safeguard the respected and beloved Comrade supreme commander," pledged Pak Yong-chol's eight brothers, who are Korean People's Army [KPA] military officers. This is the invincible will and pledge of our people and the People's Army that want to firmly safeguard our party and the socialist cause with tens of thousands of bullets and powerful bombs.

The single-hearted unity in which the party and the leader trust in the people and love them to the end, and in which the people firmly trust in the party and the leader and hold them at high esteem is the true aspect of our single-hearted unity. The invincibility of the socialist cause of our own style and the source for our people's faith in victory lie in the unity.

At the head of the march, the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il made headway on the difficult road of the socialist cause which no one has traveled on before. He has built the victorious tower shining with chuche, while abiding by the faith and principle of chuche. Under his leadership, our people have advanced the socialist cause by upholding the chuche banner and the banner of independence regardless of the wind's direction and people's comments.

Our party has never yielded to outside pressure. In addition, it has never been observant of other people's faces in carrying out the revolution. Instead, it has carried out the revolution on the road of chuche with its own faith in chuche, without forgetting its own spirit. We built the party and the government in conformity with the demands of chuche. We conducted economic, cultural, and military construction in our own way.

Look at all that has been created and built in this land! Do you see anybody else's face or style in construction work or opera scenes? We have built and created all things in our own style. Therefore, we will never be frightened in the face of any storm which may envelop the world.

It is the dear comrade leader's iron will to defend the socialist ideology and principle to the end, holding aloft the banner of the chuche idea even in the worst environment. The socialist ideology is the popular masses' ideology. To concede and abandon the socialist ideology and principle is to turn one's back on socialism and on the popular masses as well as to surrender to capitalism.

Under the leadership of the dear comrade leader, we have strengthened the party's leadership for the revolution and construction, enhanced the function and role of political power, adhered to the collectivist principle of economic management, and held aloft the banner of the anti-imperialist struggle. Thus, we have been defending and glorifying socialism of our own style by using the heat of the revolutionary principle to shut out the worldwide wind of freedom of ideology, the wind of multiparty politics, and the wind of diversification of ownership.

Whenever we see socialism of our own style, which is advancing stoutly, and whenever we see surprising turnabouts changing the whole world, we cannot but be touched by something great. That is the extraordinary leadership of the dear comrade leader.

An old anti-Japanese fighter, who was helping builders at a construction site where 30,000 houses were being built in Pyongyang last summer, said: We are engaged in the construction of a foundation today, but we can say the completion of 30,000 houses in Pyongyang is near at hand. The outstanding leadership of our dear comrade leader is extraordinary and unparalleled enough to have the entire world in his grasp. I foresee a brilliant future for our revolution due to his extraordinary leadership.

The old fighter's remarks from the bottom of his heart on the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's extraordinary leadership reflect all our people's feelings. The popular masses are an omniscient and omnipotent being, whose might is unlimited. When one organizes and mobilizes the popular masses, one can accomplish anything. With a conviction based on this, the dear comrade leader is victoriously leading our socialist cause.

The dear comrade leader converts unfavorable conditions to favorable ones with his unparalleled bravery and great determination, and he reforms the whole world by creating great miracles. How outstanding his leadership is! He has united the entire party, all the people, and the entire Army as one and has been leading them to realize one goal proficiently, boldly, and confidently. How marvelous his leadership is!

With his distinguished capability to develop the revolution, the dear comrade leader boldly takes up every work in a large scale and pushes ahead with it to the end with his invincible, energetic will, overcoming all obstacles and hardships. How eminent his leadership is! All this shows the extraordinary leadership that the dear comrade leader has.

Thanks to the dear comrade leader's outstanding and seasoned leadership, great changes this century have been made in this land and the popular masses-centered socialism of our own style is blooming even more brightly. Also, the strong socialist country of independence, self-reliance, and self-defence is being glorified even more to be in the limelight of the world.

The Pyongyang Declaration was adopted in our country last year. Approximately 160 political parties have signed it so far. This is a sign of the irreversible aspiration toward socialism of the progressive people of the world, as well as a sign of their certain faith that mankind's socialist cause will win the victory without fail. It was a historic event to prepare a turning point in implementing the mankind's cause of independence.

This is why numerous people in the world cannot repress expressing their firm faith that the Pyongyang Declaration is a majestic sound of fire which declared that the retreat of socialism has ended and that socialism—which has initiated its counteroffensive against imperialism—will be victorious. Also, this is why they are proudly saying that socialist Korea has become a brilliant beacon and a guiding star for all fighters.

The adoption of the Pyongyang Declaration—which has become a beacon of hope and a beacon of faith for hundreds of millions of people of the world who are wandering off their track under the tempestuous trials of a complicated situation—is a brilliant fruition of the sleepless and restless efforts of the dear comrade leader, who has presented a completed socialist doctrine based on the great chuche idea, who has wisely led the execution of the socialist cause in our country, and who, thus, has led the cause to demonstrate its grand appearance all over the world.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has registered immortal achievements by leading the times and the revolution. Accordingly, the song of praise, the song of the bright star, which will be eternal in the history of this country is resounding. Chongil Peak rises on top of Mt. Peaktu. And the blue stream of Sobaeksu meanders. The bright star marks his 50th birthday. He is equipped with literary and military arts and loyalty and filial piety. So, everyone respects him. Everyone single-heartedly admires him, and thunderous applause resounds on the earth and in the sky.

This is the poem praising our dear comrade leader written by the great leader. This poem is not only an expression of the fatherly leader's utmost satisfaction with the brilliant inheritance of the chuche revolutionary cause and its bright future, but it is also his most valuable admiration of the dear comrade leader's prominent greatness and his immortal achievements. It is also an immortal doxology reflecting intact the nation's and minkind's reverence for him.

I have never admired any great men in the world as the sun. However, I would like to admire only President Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il as suns. President Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il are the great leaders and the great suns who will rescue the destiny of socialism of the world. I think this is not just my own feeling. I think this is the unanimous feeling of the heads and representatives of the political parties of many countries of the world who signed the Pyongyang Declaration adopted at this time. This is the remark of an Ecuadoran who visited our counrtry last year.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, whom the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song—who has been admired as the sun of mankind in the 20th century—is praising! The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il who has been revered and admired as the great leader [yongdoja] and the great sun by hundreds of millions of people of the world! Indeed, he is the great sun of the revolution and construction of our times which is elucidating the road of consummating socialism, that is, the road of pioneering mankind's destiny, and which is eternally and immortally contributing to the socialist cause, the cause of liberating mankind through its experienced and tested leadership.

This is why our people, as well as the revolutionary people of the world, are greeting the February festive day as the happeist day of the nation, and as a great festive day of mankind and why they solemnly wish the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il long life and good health for the victory of the socialist cause and for the cause of liberating mankind. The cause of the great leader [suryong] and the great leader [yongdoja] is ever-victorious and invincible. Our people will consummate the socialist cause, the chuche revolutionary cause, to the end, upholding the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

KCNA Highlights Success of Integrated Farms

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[Text] Pyongyang, February 23 (KCNA)—One more integrated farm with 10,000 hectares of arable land has taken shape on the Paekmu plateau in the northern highlands of Korea in recent years. The highlands 1,000-1,200 metres above the sea level came into being as a result of lava extravasation from Mt. Paektu and diastrophism. The area was an endless expanse of forests.

The great leader President Kim Il-song unfolded a far-reaching plan to reclaim this area long ago, founded state farm no. 5 (now taehongdan county integrated farm) in July 1952 during the fatherland liberation war on which the destiny of the country was staked and organized the Pothae integrated farm in August 1967.

A few years ago, he set forth a task to found an integrated farm in Paekam area. Thousands of trees had to be felled per hectare, the roots be pulled up and 10,000 hectares of arable land and a wind break be created. The vast project, however, was completed in a little more than two years bringing the Paekam integrated farm into shape. The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent many musical instruments and teaching materials and even wedding dress materials to the reclaimers of the 10,000 hectares of land.

The Paekam integrated farm neighbours on the Taehsiy county integrated farm and the Pothae integrated farm. Its major crops are potato and barley. The farm produced 30 tons of potatoes per hectare last year and aims to produce hundreds of thousands of tons this year.

Some modern potato mills for the production of cornstarch are under construction on the farm. Byproducts of the mills will be used for large-scale stock-breeding. A pork production centre with a capacity of thousands of tons has already been built. The farm has hundreds of tractors, scores of trucks and harvester combines and thousands of modern farm machines which replace human labour in all farming. The integrated farm has nine branch farms, each of which has modern dwelling houses, schools, a people's hospital, a house of culture and a welfare service network for the agricultural workers.

LSWYK Chairman Delivers Work Report

SK1802114093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1051 GMT 18 Feb 93

["Report to 8th Congress of LSWYK on Work of Central Committee"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, February 18 (KCNA)—Choe Yong-hae, chairman of the Central Committee of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea (LSWYK), delivered a reqort on the work of the LSWYK Central Committee at the 8th LSWYK Congress which opened here today. He said the current congress would sum up the achievements gained in the development of the Korean youth movement and in the work with young people under the wise guidance of the Workers' Party of Korea since the 7th LSWYK Congress and discuss tasks of the LSWYK to firmly prepare the youths as young vanguards unfailingly loyal to the party and the leader in compliance with the requirements of the developing revolution.

In the first part of the report he said that during the period under review a new heyday has been brought about in the Korean youth movement and youth affairs and proud achievements have been made in the work of the LSWYK. The most important success achieved in the work of the LSWYK during the period under review under the guidance of the Workers' Party of Korea is that all the LSWYK members and other young people have been fully prepared as dependable heirs to the revolutionary cause of chuche unfailingly loyal to the party and the leader through the successful implementation of the party's policy of pushing ahead with the ideological revolution, he said.

He quoted the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song as saying: "...LSWYK organizations should further step up the ideological education of children and youth, giving great prominence to the question of the young people carrying forward the revolution." He went on: During the period under review the LSWYK has, above all, laid main emphasis on education in the spirit of loyalty to the party and the leader and developed it in depth without interruption. In particular, it has briskly conducted activities for learning from the glorious childhood and youth of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il among the youth.

"Along with education in the spirit of loyalty to the party and the leader, the LSWYK organizations have directed big efforts to firmly equipping young people with the ideas and theories of chuche and developing all the ideological education, including education in revolutionary traditions, education in socialist patriotism and education in collectivism, to suit the characteristics of the youth.

Great changes have taken place in the ideological and moral traits of our young people as a result of the intensified ideological education among them under the leadership of the party. The kernel of our young people's ideological and moral traits is their intense loyalty and filial duty to the party and the leader. All our young people have established a thoroughgoing revolutionary attitude toward the leader, and they are now filled with the unshakable determination to uphold their leader and party with loyalty and staunchly defend the party and the leader under whatever circumstances and unwaveringly advance along the road of revolution to the last under the guidance of the party.

Now it is the unshakable revolutionary faith of the youths of the third and fourth generations of the revolution that, although the revolution has covered a long way, they should live and fight invariably and faithfully, following the party all the time in any adversity like the young communists and anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters who blazed the trail of the Korean revolution through grim ordeals with an indomitable will, following the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

With this revolutionary faith in mind, our LSWYK members and other young people have entrusted all their destinies entirely to our party and held ever higher the banner of socialism, united rock-firm around the party in recent years when the anti-socialist frenzy has got unprecendentedly unruly in the international arena and young people were embroiled into counterrevolutionary rowdyism against their parties and governments in some countries which had been building socialism.

Another important success made in the work of the LSWYK during the period under review is that it has vigorously mobilized young people in socialist economic and cultural construction to perform heroic feats. Our young men and women, in hearty response to the party's calls, have wrought great miracles by fully displaying their revolutionary enthusiasm and creative wisdom in the ambitious projects and socialist construction sites to build grand monumental edifices of the Workers' Party era, including the West Sea barrage, the northern railway, the May Day Stadium and the Pyongyang-Kaesong expressway.

Our young people have registered significant successes in carrying out tasks of the technical and cultural revolutions, upholding the party's policy of technical revolution and policy of assimilating ohe whole of society to intelligentsia. The LSWYK organizations have also put fresh muscles into the work for establishing a socialist way of cultural and emotional life by popularising mass culture and art activities and sports among the youths and making them their daily routine.

In the years under review the LSWYK has vigorously mobilized the young people across the country in the struggle to implement our party's military line in face of the constant moves of aggression and new war provocation manepers of the U.S. imperialists and their stooges. The LSWYK has put particular efforts into the work for guiding young people more energetically to participate in the noble cause of defending the country with high national pride and honour in acclaiming the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as the supreme commander of the Korean People's Army.

Now all the working youths and students are acquiring military knowledge in real earnest, aiding the People's Army with sincerity and keeping themselves in full combat readiness to fight alongside the people's army, dedicating their lives without hesitation to the party and the leader, to the country and the people, united closely behind respected supreme commander Comrade Kim Chong-il, if the enemy dare provoke a war recklessly. One of the important successes achieved in the work of the LSWYK in the period under review is that the LSWYK organizations have been built up firmly and their functions and role further enhanced.

A revolutionary work system has been established within the league whereby to uphold the party's leadership with loyalty, the ranks of LSWYK cadres and hardcore youths have been consolidated, and the militancy of primary organizations, the grassroots bodies of the league, has been further elevated. In the second part the reporter elaborated on tasks to fully prepare the young people as vanguard fighters staunchly defending the party and its cause of socialism in the van under the banner of singlehearted unity.

He said: In "Let Us Develop the Youth Movement in Our Country to a New Height," his recent talk to the leading officials engaged in the work with young people, the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il gave a profound elucidation of the essence and position of the youth movement and of the basic mission of the socialist youth movement and clearly indicated main tasks facing the Korean youth movement in the present period and ways to carry them out.

In order to firmly defend the socialist cause of chuche and carry it to accomplishment, adhering to our party's line of the three revolutions, ideological, technical and cultural, the youth must remain intensely loyal to the party by carrying forward the tradition of singlehearted unity of our revolution. Our socialism, an embodiment of the chuche idea, is now being carried forward and developed victoriously under the guidance of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il who is upholding the revolutionary cause of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song with fidelity. Singlehearted unity of our people and youths behind the party is the key to repulsing all machinations of the imperialists and reactionaries against socialism and our republic, firmly defending socialism of our own style and rebuilding, strengthening and developing the world socialist movement.

Let us uphold our party with singlehearted unity—this must be the unshakable will of our young people and the entirety of their struggle and life. The destiny of the party is immediately the destiny of socialism and of the youths. The party is a tender-hearted mother who ensures noble political integrity for the young people, provides them with a happy life and grand ambitions and gives and defends all their socio-political rights.

Our young people should faithfully uphold the party's leadership, closely rallied behind the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, as the young people of the first generation of our revolution who opened the bright future of the revolutionary cause of chuche fought and won, holding the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in high esteem as the centre of unity, as the centre of leadership. Herein lies the sure guarantee of defending and carrying to brilliant accomplishment the revolutionary cause of chuche, the cause of socialism centred on the masses and of living up to the trust and expectations of the world people and youths.

In order to fully prepare the youths as vanguard fighters staunchly defending the party and its cause of socialism in the van under the banner of singlehearted unity, it is necessary to strengthen ideological education among them. The LSWYK organizations should put main stress on education in the spirit of loyalty to the party and the leader and further develop it so that all the young people may deeply acquire the great thought and theory of the party and the leader, their immortal feats and noble virtues and firmly establish a revolutionary attitude toward the leader and make loyalty their faith, conscience, morality and life itself.

All the youth must become a lifeguard and death-defying corps resolutely defending the party and its cause of socialism in the van, with the unshakable creed that they would rather die than live as slaves or abandon socialism which has been brought into blossom by our party.

The LSWYK organizations must ensure that all the young people cherish the unshakable conviction that our revolution is sure to win as long as we have the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song and our party, share the same destiny with the party with revolutionary optimism under any circumstances and become a fort and shield tightly defending the party and the leader. They should intensify education in the chuche idea and, at the same time, get the youths to resolutely combat all outdated and reactionary ideas contrary to the chuche idea, including capitalism, revisionism, dogmatism and flunkeyism, and prevent their slightest elements from infiltrating into our ranks.

They should also properly conduct class education among the young men and women so that they may always adhere to the working-class principle, the socialist principle in their work and life and fight an uncompromising struggle against the exploiter system of imperialism, landlords and capitalists. They should encourage the young people to accelerate the three revolutions, ideological, technical and cultural, on all fronts of socialist economic construction and display the honour of the vanguard and shock brigade in the fulfilment of economic tasks, with the indomitable fighting spirit, that is, "When the party is determined, we can do anything."

For the present, all the young people must make strenuous efforts to win greater victory in all fields with the indomitable fighting spirit and mettle this year, a significant year in which falls the 40th anniversary of the victory of our people in the great Fatherland Liberation War, in hearty response to the New Year address of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, and thereby press ahead with the socialist construction and bring the advantages of our socialism into fuller play. The

LSWYK organizations should make sure that all the young people always keep themselves in a strained and mobilized posture to cope with the enemy's aggression, with a correct view of imperialism and war.

All the LSWYK officials should work with redoubled vigor, deeply cherishing the highest honour and pride of engaging in the work with young people at the most blessed time when they are guided by the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, with him at the head, and thus closely rally all the young men and women of our country behind the party and bring about a new epochmaking change in the work of the LSWYK. In the third part the reporter stressed the need to powerfully wage the movement for national reunification on the principle of national independence and strengthen unity with the world's progressive youths.

He said: To reunify the divided country is the greatest national desire of our people and the most urgent task facing the younger generation. The reunification of our country must be realized on the principle of national independence. The idea and principle of reunification based on national independence propounded by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song are the most just programme and banner of national reunification enabling our nation to solve the reunification question by its own efforts and to meet its own interests.

All the Korean youths in the North and the South and overseas must firmly unite on the principle of national independence and resolutely fight in the van of the grand national march toward reunification through confederacy. The formation of the Pan-National Alliance of Youth and Students for the Country's Reunification (Pomchonghaknyon) last year in response to the unanimous will of the young people in the North and the South and overseas was an important event which marked a new milestone in developing the patriotic movement for reunification to a higher stage through the great unity of all the Korean youths on the principle of national independence. All the Korean young people must firmly unite under the banner of the Pomchonghaknyon and encourage and support one another on the same front for national reunification and thereby make sustained efforts to enable the Pomchonghaknyon to successfully play its role as the vanguard of the reunification movement. Upholding the three principles of national reunification and the proposal for founding the democratic confederal republic of Koryo laid down by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, the young people in the northern half of the country will as ever turn out actively in the struggle to put them into effect.

The South Korean youth and students should resolutely oppose the U.S. imperialists' policy of colonial enslavement and the South Korean rulers' anti-national acts of seeking national partition in reliance upon outside forces and daringly rise in the struggle to get the U.S. imperialist aggression forces and all their destruction weapons including nuclear weapons withdrawn from South Korea. All the Korean youths abroad should get united into one and more courageously conduct the patriotic mass movement for the prosperity of the nation in Asia, Europe, Americas and other regions.

To strengthen friendship, unity and militant solidarity with the world's progressive youths is an important task of the LSWYK in its external activities. The world's progressive youths should vigorously wage a joint struggle in the future, too, to accomplish the cause of independence against imperialism. Let the world youth advocating independence unite!—This is the common slogan all the young people of our times should uphold. The progressive young people all over the world should strengthen militant friendship and unity under this slogan and fight vigorously to build a free and peaceful new world free from domination and subjugation, imperialism and war.

The young people of our times should not harbour any illusion about imperialism but maintain the resolute anti-imperialist stand and valiantly turn out in the anti-imperialist struggle to save the destiny of mankind and defend their precious youth from the imperialist clutches. The world's progressive youths should make persevering efforts to defend and advance socialism by applying the noble idea of the Pyongyang declaration. The LSWYK and the Korean young people will unite with the youths of socialist and nonaligned countries and all other peaceloving countries in the world under the banner of anti-imperialist solidarity, peace and friendship, in the future, too, as in the past, and vigorously fight against imperialism and for global independence. The reporter stressed that the LSWYK, always faithfully following the party, would become the youth league of the great revolutionary party of chuche type nominally and virtually, a lifeguard and death-defying corps resolutely defending and glorifying the party and its cause of socialism.

DPRK Invents New DNA Enzyme

SK2302110193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1036 GMT 23 Feb 93

[Text] Pyongyang, February 23 (KCNA)—The Type II restriction endonuclease FMU I with new cleavage specificity used in genetic engineering has been invented in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The enzyme was isolated from the cell extract of flavobacterium multivorum and purified. The restriction endonuclease FMU I recognizes nucleotide sequence 5'-GGNCC-3' in double-stranded DNA and generates cohesive termini of 3 bases cleaving between the two cytosine residues in recognition sequence.

With this enzyme isolated and purified, it has become possible to make the gene recombinant with new biological characterization. The enzyme which will be greatly conducive to guaranteeing the chuche character in the research of genetic engineering of the country has been obtained by Associate Doctor Na Song-yong, a researcher of the Institute of Biotechnology of Kim Il-song University.

State Administration Council Urges Labor Feats

932C0047A Pyongyang MINJU CHOSON in Korean 31 Oct 92 pp 1

[Decisions Adopted by State Administration Council]

[Text] The State Administration Council (SAC) has recently adopted a resolution in order to thoroughly accomplish the party's intention on the occasion of commemorating the 40th aniversary of the victorious Fatherland Liberation War (Korean War) with high political zeal and labor result.

Our beloved leader, Commrade Kim Chong-il pointed out as follows: "The Fatherland Liberation War was a great revolutionary war that has a historical significance of defending our fatherland against U.S. imperialism, the leader of the world's imperialism, for the first time in history through the heroic struggle of our people." On the occasion of next year's 40th aniversary of the victorious Fatherland Liberation War, the decision urged that all the economic guidance functionaries and workers, displaying the banner of chuche ideology on high, should bring about a new upsurge in all areas of the socialist construction in order to more thoroughly accomplish the three revolutions in ideology, technology, and culture with the revolutionary and indomitable spirit of struggle, that had been displayed during and after the War. The decision also suggested detailed tasks.

First of all, the decision pointed out that we should glorify even more the military achievements made by our great leader and beloved leader, on the occasion of the 40th aniversary of the victorious War. The decision also pointed out that the administrative organizational works are necessary to firmly unite workers around the party and the leader.

The decision pointed out issues related to improve the repair, maintenance, and management of the historical sites of the revolution and revolutionary battle fields, where the revolutionary accomplishments of our party and the great leader are displayed, including the Commemorative Building of the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War, the Revolutionary Museum, the Revolutionary Historic Sites; issues on guaranteeing a reliable supply of necessary materials and furniture by appropriate committees, departments, and responsible organizations as planned; issues on the timely completion of the construction of the monument for the victorious Fatherland Liberation War, which is another monumental creation of the Korean Workers Party era; issues in taking good care of the works and lives of the Republic's heroes, participants in the War, disabled veterans, discharged servicemen, bereaved families of anti-Japanese revolutionaries, and war bereaved families; and issues in better materializing the revolutionary demands of the party's slogan of "serving the people" by the workers in organizations and enterprizes.

Second, the decision pointed out ways to accelerate the development of key industries. In relation to this, the decision suggested increasing the production of electricity to its maximum capacity, together with issues related to accelerating the construction of power plants. It also emphasized the reinforcement of the technical management of existing thermoelectric power plants; the collection of more water in the hydroelectric power plants; the increase of the production of electricity by increasing hydraulic efficiency; and the efficient utilization of the electricity produced by accelerating the completion of power plants currently under construction and by incorporating staggered production methods.

The decision suggested normalizing production at the highest level in the extraction industry. It brought up problems related to the active development of new coal mines and pits. It suggested tasks for reinforcing geological survey in order to meet the production goal of various minerals, including coal, non-ferrous metals, and iron ores.

In bringing up the problems of smoothly meeting the increasing demand in the area of railroad transportation, the decision indicated the need for continuous and forceful realization of the "5.18 no-accident, on-time, traction-standard-surpassing movement" by accelerating the modernization of the railroad transportation, and by timely repair and maintenance of railways, engines and freight cars.

The decision emphasized a reinforcement of the chuche spirit in the metal industry. It brought up problems of practical economic works in increasing the production of iron and steel products. It also pointed out the normalizing the production of various heavy industries including machinery, electronic automization, and building material industries at the high level.

The decision suggested putting efforts in the production of machine tools, trucks, tractors, and plant facilities. It also suggested problems in increasing the production of color TV monitors and electronics elements, and automation instruments; and problems in increasing the production of cement and lumbers.

Third, the decision brought up current tasks in improving the standard of living. The decision suggested detailed ways of increasing the production of rice, corn, meat, fruits, silk worms, and vegetables by thoroughly accomplishing the demand of the party's policy of "farming is the most important" and the chuche method of farming; increasing the production of fish and fishery farm products by putting efforts in the development of fishery industry; increasing the production of various daily goods, including materials, shoes, and candies, by firmly adhering to the party's policy of light industry revolution; and of strongly carrying out the struggle for quality improvement. Furthermore, the decision suggested problems related to sufficient provision for light industry and agriculture by increasing the production of chemical products, including vinalon, staple fiber, vinyl chloride, chemical fertilizer, and agricultural chemicals.

Suggesting a continuous performance of the task of large-scale housing constuction, the decision urged the completion of the construction of 30,000 houses in the capital and brought up tasks of constructing housing in large scale by actively utilizing local materials in the cities and countrysides. The decision brought up tasks to improve and reinforce city management in preparation for increasing modern streets and housing complexes; to provide excellent living conditions to workers by improving service facilities; and to complete plant construction on time by concentrating efforts, which provides significance in solving the necessities of raising the standard of living.

The decision suggested detailed tasks to carry out the export plan without any discrepancy in every area and unit of the people's economy and to develop large scale trade with foreign countries. The plan also brought up tasks to successfully carry out the three-year plan of science and technology development; to successfully solve scientific and technological problems arising from chucheization, modernization, and scientifization of the people's economy; and to enhance some areas of the important science and technology areas.

The decision pointed out reinforcing the struggle for increased production and frugality; guaranteeing increased production and maximum economic efficiency by planning the work of guiding, controlling, and managing the economy according to the demand of the Taean work system and their efficient achievement. The decision emphasized problems associated with encouraging the social atmosphere of displaying our fine traditional custom of unity between the army and the people even higher, and with guaranteeing materialistic and technological conditions in order to successfully carry out various festivities on the occasion of meeting the 40th aniversary of the victorious Fatherland Liberation War. Finally, the decision pointed out the development of detailed plans to carry out the decisions in the committees, departments, provinces' administrative economic committees, and other appropriate organizations.

Nuclear Energy Needed for Developing Economy

932C0048A Pyongyang NODONG SINMUN in Korean 8 Nov 92 p 6

[By reporter Choe Song-kuk: "Peaceful Nuclear Policy of the People's Republic of Korea"]

[Text] The righteousness of our Republic's nuclear planning and policy is widely being proven. Consequently, while international trust on us is deepening, reactionary powers that are trying to hurt and isolate us by spreading false charges of "nuclear weapons development in North Korea" are losing their grounds.

Our Republic is a peace-loving country. It is, therefore, one of our Republic's most important principles of peace-loving foreign policy to abandon nuclear weapons and to struggle to guarantee non-nuclear peace.

The great leader, Comrade Kim Il-song instructed as follows:

"As a non-nuclear nation, our Republic has been consistently arguing for making the Korean peninsula a nuclear free and peace zone. This is a well known fact throughout the world."

Currently, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is undergoing the fourth special inspection of our Republic's nuclear facilities.

As the public opinion and international society acknowledge, our Republic's nuclear planning and policy are legitimate.

Our Republic has neither produced nor bought from abroad any nuclear weapons. It is our Republic's consistent and firm position and policy to maintain the nuclear-free status.

We are neither capable of nor intend to develop any nuclear weapons. We have made this clear on several occasions. The IAEA proved our status and intention through several inspections.

Our Republic's peaceful nuclear policy has also been demonstrated by the fact that we joined the membership of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NNPT) and faithfully fulfilled our duties.

The major purpose in joining the NNPT in December 1985 was to become free from nuclear threat by removing the U.S. nuclear weapons from South Korea; to prevent nuclear war by achieving the goal of nuclear-free status in the Korean peninsula; and to guarantee peace. Even under the circumstance of increasing danger of nuclear war by increased number of nuclear weapons in South Korea and threats to us since we became a member of the NNPT, we have tried our best to fulfill the duties of membership. We have continuously tried to create requirements and an atmosphere necessary to sign the Nuclear Security Pact, following the NNPT. As soon as the atmosphere matures, we signed the security treaty and unilaterally allowed the investigation by the IAEA. In fact, the declaration of the nuclear-free status by the South Korean Government, the U.S.'s announcement to remove all nuclear weapons from South Korea, the omission of the U.S.-South Korea joint military exercise known as Team Spirit in 1992, and the adoption and effectuation of the joint declaration of non-nuclear zone, are the result of our active non-nuclear struggle.

The propaganda by the U.S., Japan, and South Korea stating that we have developed and possess nuclear weapons is nothing but nonsense. It is merely a mean and ludicrous trick to hurt and isolate us.

The legitimacy of our nuclear development plan is being clearly verified.

The fundamental objective of our nuclear plan and policy is to develop nuclear energy and apply it for peaceful construction.

As the socialist construction is being forcefully carried out in our nation and the economic scale is continuously being expanded, a vast source of energy becomes necessary. As a means to satisfy the increasing demand for energy, we are turning our attention to the utilization of atomic energy.

Under the circumstance that the worldwide interest in atomic energy is rapidly increasing and atomic energy is actually being widely utilized for peaceful purposes, our interest and effort in this area should be of no issue at all.

We voluntarily allowed the inspection of the IAEA. We even show the IAEA our nuclear facilities that are not required to be officially inspected.

The Director of the IAEA said that North Korea selected nuclear power as a means to support its increasing demand for electric power.

We will continue our research in order to effectively utilize nuclear power for peaceful purposes and develop international cooperation and exchange in this area.

Our peaceful nuclear plan and policy are a reflection of our people's intention and wish. Our people love peace and are antinuclear more than anyone else. Our people are the victims of war that was waged by imperialists and have witnessed the ravages of the atomic bomb and its aftermath. It is well known that many Koreans who were forced to move to Japan were the victims of the atomic bomb dropped by the U.S. Since our people are well aware of the danger of nuclear weapons and nuclear ravages, we are actively pursuing nonnuclear and antinuclear struggles. In case a nuclear war breaks out in the Korean peninsula, it is our people that will be victims. The government of the People's Republic of Korea, which is fully responsible for the destiny of our people, is trying our best to get rid of the basis of nuclear war, and to prevent the disaster of nuclear war. We are, therefore, providing numerous ideas and suggestions and trying hard to materialize them. The whole world is acknowledging our effort.

The propaganda that we have developed and possess nuclear weapons is a groundless rumor spread by pathological liars.

Speaking of the danger of nuclear weapons in the Korean peninsula, it is directed at us from the U.S. The danger of nuclear war in the Korean peninsula is solely caused by the U.S., who has been placing so many nuclear weapons here and has been threatening us on numerous occasions. The decision by the U.S. to carry out Team Spirit, a nuclear military exercise, jointly with South Korea, is a manifestation of its anti-North Korea, nuclear crisis and war. Their widely spreading groundless rumor of "Nuclear Weapons Development in North Korea" is nothing but an attempt to justify their maneuver to stage a nuclear war.

We neither say true what is false, nor give up what we believe is right. As far as the nuclear issue is concerned, we will continue to faithfully fulfill our international duties as we did in the past.

Staggered Production Urged To Save Energy

932C0049A Pyongyang MINJU CHOSON in Korean 12 Nov 92 p 1

[Editorial: "Let Us Effectively Utilize Electricity by Staggering Production"]

[Text] As the effort to gloriously complete this year's plan is being forcefully executed, the demand for electricity is increasing even more.

In order to satisfy the increasing demand for electricity, we have to use it effectively, while increasing the production of electricity. In order to effectively use electricity, we have to well organize the staggering production system.

Our dear leader, Comrade Kim Chong-il pointed out as follows:

"We have to well organize staggered production systems in the plants and enterprises."

Staggering production is a method that allows the production units to produce alternatingly. It is one of our party's important methods of effectively utilizing electricity.

Many plants and enterprises, including those within the Dongdaewon District, have organized staggering production systems according to our party's intention and have substantially increased productions without extra supply of electricity.

It is a clear demonstration of the viability of staggering production. It also shows that the staggering production system has a great potential for electricity saving.

It is urgent to better achieve a firm staggering production system and to better organize it.

Now is the time to accelerate their production and construction in the plants and enterprises. It is also a dry season, a time when hydraulic power plants control their production of electricity.

Under such a circumstance, only if we effectively utilize electricity through a well-organized staggering production, are we able to successfully carry out production and construction even if the power plants control their production of electricity.

For this reason, our party recently emphasized the necessity for reinforcing regulations to impose staggering production. The State Administration Council (SAC) prepared related measurements accordingly.

We have to well organize the staggering production in every aspect of the people's economy according to the party's intention and to reveal its effect widely.

The most important task in achieving this is a demonstration of an ownership spirit by functionaries in managing their nation's affairs.

It is our party's consistent policy in constructing the socialist economy to increase production through frugality.

The task of organizing staggering production should be carried out not only when electricity is in short supply but also when there is abundant electricity.

The capacity and actual production rate of electricity by many power plants, that have been constructed in many places throughout the nation according to the party's chuche policy of constructing power bases, are enormous.

Through staggering production, we can produce and construct more with the currently available electricity. Whether or not we can achieve this depends upon our viewpoints and attitudes toward running the government.

Our functionaries should try hard to save electricity and use it effectively in the position of ownership of our nation. They also persistently try to organize staggering production in a practical sense.

In order to well organize the staggering production, we have to rationally arrange our working time according to plants, enterprises, and regions and thoroughly execute it.

Working hours are electricity consuming time. Only if working hours are well-organized and functionaries keep the hours, are the productions among plants, enterprises, and different regions carried out in a staggered manner.

Just as combat capability can be optimally utilized in the military when attack units, attack preparation units, and resting units operate alternatingly, electricity can be saved and economically used when production is carried out in a staggered fashion in different plants, enterprises, and regions.

Therefore, the plants, enterprises, and different regions should arrange working hours according to the requirements of the staggering production organizations of each plant, enterprises, and region. They should also reinforce the orders and rules that enforce the observation of the working hours.

Thus it is important to sharply increase the production by concentrating within a given time. By doing so, production can be made as electricity is consumed and the electricity consumption standard per production can be well observed. In order to achieve this, full operation and full load should be guaranteed by rationally making labor organizaton, preparing raw materials in advance, and frugally maintaining our facilities.

Since the staggering production is directly related to the supply and consumption of electricity, its successful practice largely depends upon the role of the organizations that supply electricity.

As practical experiences show in every exemplary place where staggering production is successfully carried out, a detailed plan is being developed to enable electricity supplying organizations to provide and consume electricity effectively.

The electricity supply contract is signed between the supply in organizations and plants and enterprises according to their working hours registered with the supplying organizations. The supplying organizations should develop regulations and orders that provide electricity in the exact amount at the exact time according to the contract. At the same time, the maintenance of power transmission and transforming facilities should be frugally made in order to prevent accidents. The supplying organizations should prevent any inconvenience in carrying out staggering production by planning technical and economic policy.

The major objective in organizing staggering production is to guarantee proper electric load.

The electricity supplying organizations should organize their task of supplying electricity in order to properly maintain the electric load. The most important thing is that they should properly control the electricity supply and consumption amount in the morning and evening when the load is the highest.

Staggering production is by no means aimed at providing electricity evenly to all the plants and enterprises.

The supplying organizations should provide sufficient electricity to priority places that require much electricity, such as major plants and enterprises involved in key industries, where continuous operation is required, transportation areas, and farming areas where threshing is currently being accelerated. In continuing operation, internal organization for staggering production should also be planned in order to avoid interruption to the overall production.

In planning staggering production organizations, reality requires reinforcement of supervision and control with a full control of its execution.

The responsible organizations should understand and make routine and detailed analysis of the status of staggering production. They should also be required to observe the rules and regulations so that even minor deviations can be corrected on a timely basis.

The effective utilization and conservation of electricity are one of the important aspects to strongly adhere to in production units and enterprise management.

In every aspect of the people's economy, let us enhance the achievement of production and construction with currently available electricity by enhancing the organization of staggering production according to the demands of reality.

KCNA Reviews 24 February Pyongyang Press

SK2402050693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0448 GMT 24 Feb 93

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang, February 24 (KCNA)—Papers here today carry photo-illustrated reports that the great leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il posed for photographs with the delegates to the 8th congress of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea and the congratulatory group of the league of Korean youth in Japan. Printed in the press is a photo-accompanied report that President Kim Il-song received the general secretary of the Britannic Communist Party.

Papers carry a message of greetings sent by Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, to Cheddi Bharrat Jagan, general secretary of the people's progressive party of Guyana and president of the cooperative Republic of Guyana, on the occasion of the 23rd anniversary of the proclamation of the republic. Appearing in NODONG SINMUN is a report that President Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il received a letter of thanks sent by Mohamed Bouchiha, deputy general secretary of the people's unity party of Tunisia, before leaving Korea.

Papers editorially call for a thorough fulfilment of the tasks set forth by President Kim Il-song in his letter addressed to the 8th LSWY congress "young people must honourably accomplish the revolutionary cause of chuche upholding the leadership of the party" and round up repercussions of this work upon officials and young people. A gift came to Comrade Kim Chong-il from the C.C., the Sri Lanka Communist Party, reports the press. Given in the press is an account of a national symposium of officials of party cadres training institutions on "on the fundamentals of revolutionary party building," a work of Comrade Kim Chong-il, which was held in Pyongyang.

It is reported in the press that Comrade Kim Chong-il's work "the historical lesson in building socialism and the general line of our party" was disseminated and studied in different countries. Seen in papers is a letter to Comrade Kim Chong-il from the participants in the european regional seminar of the chuche idea on the present times and the European independence. On the occasion of the birthday of Comrade Kim Chong-il, a February 16 celebration meeting took place in Guyana, a roundtable conversation of members of the Japan society for the study of Kimilsongism was held in Tokyo and Cambodian and Lebanese papers carried the brief history of his revolutionary activities, reports the press.

MINJU CHOSON informs the readers that a joint decision of the Central People's Committee and the administration council of the DPRK was adopted to effect a new upswing in socialist economic construction. Under the title "our socialist homeland is the bosom of the party" NODONG SINMUN edits articles introducing the noble communist traits shown by Korean working people. According to the press, the president of the Confederal Republic of Yugoslavia received the DPRK ambassador.

Carried in the press is a speech of the head of the DPRK delegation at the February meeting of the board of governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency under the title "'information provided by specified country' must not be used for inspection". The press prints a joint statement of the Workers' Party of Korea and the Sri Lanka Communist Party. An article of NODONG SINMUN exposes the crimes committed by the "sixth republic" of No Tae-u against the nation over the past five years and an article of MINJU CHOSON stresses that if the "civilian politics" advertised by the South Korean "Democratic Liberal Party" is to be enforced, it is necessary to terminate the colonial domination of the United States and destroy the military fascist dictatorial system. NODONG SINMUN runs an article calling for an immediate withdrawal of the U.S. forces and nuclear weapons from South Korea.

The world news columns of the press include reports that the Cuban foreign ministry and foreign publications condemned the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises of the United States and the South Korean authorities and the world public circles denounced the schemings of the United States, Japan, the South Korean authorities and some circles of the International Atomic Energy Agency to force an unreasonable "special inspection" of the DPRK. It is reported in the press that Raul Castro declared the Cuban people would fight like immortals, if the aggressors pounced upon them, the Mozambican president outlined the educational development of the country and the Lao president and prime minister were elected.

Correction to 'Text' of Kim Il-song's LSWYK Letter

SK2302003393

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "8th LSWYK Congress Continues in Pyongyang: Kim Il-song Letter 'Text' Given," published in the 22 Feb East Asia DAILY REPORT, page 20-23:

Page 20, column two, last paragraph, last sentence make read: ...experienced difficulties and trials, the young people became the lifeguards and shock brigades of the party and defended the revolution staunchly and took the lead in implementing the party's line and policies. The path traversed by our young people has been the path of single-hearted loyalty to the party and the revolution and the path of fruitful creation for the country and the people. [new graf] Under the correct... (clearing indistinct passage).

Page 21, column one, third paragraph, only sentence make read: ...in which socialism has suffered a setback and capitalism has made a comeback in some countries and the frantic machinations of the imperialists and reactionaries against socialism and our republic which are being perpetrated with this situation as a momentum, are creating a great difficulty for our revolution and bringing up a weighty task for it. The path of revolution traversed by our people in the past was also severe and arduous. However, the crisis which we should overcome now is unprecedented in its seriousness and severeness. [new graf] Whether we defend... (clearing indistinct passage).

Page 22, column one, first paragraph, first sentence make read: ...revolution is today carried forward splendidly under the guidance of... (clearing indistinct words).

South Korea

Reportage, Reaction to IAEA Plan for DRPK

Press Reports Plutonium Found

SK2402103793 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 1010 GMT 24 Feb 93

[Text] In a report filed from Vienna, Japan's NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN quoted an International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] official as saying that the IAEA found plutonium from North Korea's nuclear waste, which is completely different from what North Korea had reported to the IAEA. The newspaper added that finding the new plutonium proves that, contrary to North Korea's report to the IAEA, North Korea had extracted plutonium many times and kept some of it in hiding or had already built secret nuclear waste processing facilities. This official also said that satellite data shows that the facilities North Korea insists are not necessary to inspect, claiming that they are mere military facilities, are nuclear facilities, and it is indeed necessary to inspect them.

ROK Asks PRC To Persuade DPRK

SK2402095393 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 24 Feb 93 p 1

[Text] North Korea officially rejected a special inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA]. Predicting that the IAEA will conduct a special inspection of North Korea's nuclear facilities anyway, the ROK Government officially asked the PRC to use its influence with North Korea. The government invited PRC Ambassador Zhang Tingyan to the Foreign Ministry on 23 February, asking that the PRC persuade North Korea to accept North-South mutual nuclear inspection.

Chong Tae-ik, director-general of the Foreign Ministry's American Affairs Bureau, said in a meeting with Ambassador Zhang: "If North Korea continues to refuse a special inspection by the IAEA, North Korea's nuclear issue will surely be referred to the UN." Chong asked the PRC to join in international pressure, also asking the PRC not to use its veto if North Korea's nuclear issue is referred to the UN. Following this request to the PRC, the government plans to invite Russian Ambassador Panov to the Foreign Ministry to ask for Russia's cooperation in influencing North Korea. The government also plans to ask some leading countries' ambassadors to ROK, including the United States and Japan, for similar cooperation.

U.S. State Department Support Cited

SK2402010493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0050 GMT 24 Feb 93

[Text] Washington, Feb. 23 (YONHAP)—The U.S. State Department expressed support Tuesday for the International Atomic Energy Agency's effort to hold special inspections on North Korea's nuclear facilities. "We fully support the IAEA effort to implement nuclear safeguards in North Korea," said a department spokesman, who declined to be identified. "For this purpose, (the IAEA has to) have an access to any site needed to fulfill the safegards agreement with North Korea," he said.

Specifically, the United States supports IAEA Director-General Hans Blix in his determination to clear up the discrepancies between the data provided by North Korea to the IAEA and the results of the IAEA's own inspections, the spokesman said. "North Korea should allow the IAEA to visit all relevant nuclear sites to accomplish that task," he said.

At the IAEA Board of Governors meeting Tuesday, North Korea formally rejected the IAEA request to hold special inspections on two unreported installations in its Yongbyon nuclear complex, North of Pyongyang. The spokesman said the United States expected the IAEA board of governors to decide this week on how to respond to North Korea's refusal to allow special inspections.

ROK Not To Link DPRK Apology With Economic Aid

SK2402122093 Seoul YONHAP in English 1213 GMT 24 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 24 (YONHAP)—The government has decided not to demand any longer North Korea's apology over the case of a large espionage ring in the South as a prerequisite to economic cooperation with the North. Deputy Prime Minister and National Unification Minister Choe Yong-chol said on Wednesday that a recent unification-related ministers meeting resolved not to link such a North Korean apology to inter-Korean economic cooperation.

In a farewell press conference, Choe said it is practically impossible to expect North Korea to make any apology to the South. "Besides, Pyongyang's recent transfer of Yun Ki-pok from the duty of secretary for programs toward the South to that of secretary for education, could be taken as an action of a disciplinary nature over the spy case," Choe said. The deputy premier said, however, that overall inter-Korean relations could be improved only after North Korea's nuclear issue was resolved. "In this issue, too, I don't think hardline steps alone would do. The use of both carrot and stick could be an effective way,"he said. In his testimony at the National Assembly last October, Prime Minister Hyon Sung-chong said there would be no economic cooperation with North Korea unless Pyongyang apologizes over the spy incident.

Government Considering Sending Machinery to North

SK2002081393 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 18 Feb 93 p 2

[Text] The government is carefully considering approving the movement of processing machinery [witakgagongyong kigye] to North Korea to be operated by workers there. According to authorities, on 18 February, at the request of business groups, the government is looking for a method to facilitate the movement of processing machinery to North Korea in case there are improvements in South-North relations, including the nuclear inspection issue. Movement of processing machinery to North Korea is currently prohibited. The government has been working on internal guidelines for the movement of processing machinery to North Korea, including a deferred payment basis.

According to the government policy based on its internal guideline for South-North trade and investment, trade of goods is allowed, but investment is not. There is no special guideline for imports and exports of processing machinery. However, since machinery for processing is classified as capital goods, companies have to get approval for a South-North cooperation project to move machinery to North Korea. Furthermore, they are not allowed to have machinery that they move to North Korea insured or guaranteed by the South-North cooperation fund. Therefore, businesses have been asking that authorities regard the movement of machinery for processing to North Korea as an exchange of simple materials.

In connection with this, a businessman said: "There are many machines, including machines in textile plants, that are not being used due to the ongoing domestic economic slump and stalemate in labor-intensive industries. Moving these machines to North Korea would not only help reorganizing the industrial structure of small and middle-sized home enterprises but also contribute to complementary cooperation in industrial structure between the South and the North." Some companies have exported facilities for processing on commission to North Korea through a third country like Hong Kong, but this is a petty affair in comparison with exports by Japan.

300 Students Demonstrate Near Kwangju U.S. Center

SK2402012493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0109 GMT 24 Feb 93

[Text] Kwangju, South Korea, Feb. 24 (YONHAP)—Some 300 college and university students demonstrated near Kwangju American Center, formerly the American Cultural Center, on Wednesday morning, hurling some 200 molotov cocktails and chanting anti-American slogans. The demonstrators were repulsed with tear gas, witnesses said. There were no reports of casualties in the attack. The Alliance of Students in Kwangju and Cholla area, or Namchongnyon, claimed responsibility for the attack and said it was part of "opposing warning to the United States that it is instigating anti-unification activities, including the resumption of the South Korea-U.S. military exercise Team Spirit, and pressing Korea to import rice."

U.S. Manufacturers' Support on Dumping Charge Noted

SK2402025593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0153 GMT 24 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 24 (YONHAP)—The U.S. Semiconductor Equipment and Material International (SEMI) and American manufacturers of computers, semiconductors, and semiconductor equipment are urging the U.S. Commerce Department to be fair in appraising dumping allegations on South Korean semiconductor exports in its final determination on March 15, government and industry sources said Wednesday. IBM Corp., Apple Computer, Compaq Computer Corp., Deck, AST Research Co. and other computer companies conveyed their anxiety over loss of competitiveness with nothing but expensive Japanese and U.S. semiconductors to use in the wake of punitive duties on Korean memory chips, according to the sources. They are said to have been put off by the sole complainant Micron Technology Co., who is also considering a case against knockdown computers using Korean chips.

Major Korean semiconductor companies were accused of underpricing their DRAM (Dynamic Random Access Memory) chips of between 87.4 percent and 5.99 percent on the U.S. market in the preliminary finding by U.S. Commerce Department last October. Korea exported 800 million U.S. dollars of semiconductors to the United States last year and takes between 30 percent and 35 percent of U.S. chip market share. The United States also ships around 1 billion dollars of semiconductors and semiconductor equipment to Korea annually.

The American semiconductor industry in general fears import restrictions on Korean DRAM exports will just fan a monopolistic stand by Japanese companies, who currently dominate 53 percent of the U.S. DRAM market. It would allow Japanese companies to pocket massive profits with the anti-dumping tariffs on Korean exports because of price hikes. Compared with the past clamour for import checks on Japanese semiconductors, the U.S. industry was showing neutrality for the anti-dumping suit against Korean products, the sources said.

The final dumping finding on Korean DRAM chips will be a heavy blow to Motorola Co. and some other U.S. companies that depend on Korean companies for original equipment manufacturing, the sources said. Micron, however, is stubbornly abiding by its anti-dumping charges on Korean exporters because it fears Korea will move on to the ultra-modern semiconductor field with its DRAM technology in the same way Japan did, they said.

Russia Moves To Bar ROK Fishing in Okhotsk Sea

SK2402025193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0144 GMT 24 Feb 93

[Text] Moscow, Feb. 24 (YONHAP)—Russia moved Tuesday to bar South Korea and other countries from catching Alaskan pollack in international waters of the Okhotsk Sea. The Russian fisheries committee submitted a proclamation to parliament proposing that it declare the Okhotsk Sea an ecological disaster area. The move will heavily hurt Korea, which is close to losing its pollack fishing quota with Russia in a price dispute and is now to be barred from Okhotsk.

Russian officials claimed that foreign vessels were sweeping Okhotsk clean of egged Alaskan pollack and doing serious damage to the ecology. They claimed that vessels from Korea, Poland and other countries continue to fish in the area despite Russia's request against it. If the sea is made an ecological disaster zone, it will be sealed off to all fishing activities.

Korean officials protested that Russia cannot unilaterally declare an international fishing zone an ecological disaster area as such a declaration requires agreement in a multilateral forum. Meanwhile, Seoul's 150,000-ton annual fishing quota for Alaskan pollacks in Russian waters is near cancellation after the two sides failed to settle on the price. Seoul proposed 470 U.S. dollars per ton at last month's talks but Moscow demanded 530 dollars.

South-Korean-Australian Beef Talks Break Down

SK2402124893 Seoul YONHAP in English 1234 GMT 24 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 24 (YONHAP)—The beef talks held between Korea and Australia on Feb. 23-24 here have failed to reach any significant agreement. After the breakup of the talks, Kim Tong-tae, director-general of the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry's Livstock Bureau, said Korea suggested at the meeting that future beef import quota ought to be determined at a low level in view of declining cattle prices in Korea. Instead, Korea offered a little flexible posture over the simultaneous buy and sell (SBS) system, a sort of self-ruling purchase method between dealers, Kim said.

He said the two countries decided to have further talks some time after the next round of Korea-U.S. beef meeting. Meanwhile, a similar Korea-New Zealand meeting is set to open on Feb. 26 in Seoul. At the meeting, Korea will be represented by Kim Tong-tae and New Zealand by Julian Ludbrook, a deputy bureau director of the Foreign Affairs and Trade Ministry.

ROK, Malta Initial Aviation Agreement

SK2202141193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0532 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 22 (YONHAP)—South Korea and Malta recently initialed an aviation agreement covering tax exemption, and passenger and cargo services, Foreign Ministry officials said Monday. Multiple airlines will serve the route, and the two sides will decide on flight frequency and landing ports at later talks, the officials said. The agreement came at the end of first bilateral aviation talks Feb. 19 in Malta.

Ruling Party Officials Resign Before Reshuffle

SK2402092193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0838 GMT 24 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 24 (YONHAP)—On the eve of Kim Yong-sam's inauguration, the political temperature plunged to freezing point Wednesday over a campaign remark linking his rival Kim Tae-chung with organizations sympathetic to communist North Korea. Crying foul against what it said were false charges by Kim Yong-sam, the main opposition Democratic Party [DP] has demanded retraction of the remark and an official apology.

On Tuesday, floor leaders of the two parties agreed to settle the dispute with DLP [DLP] Executive Chairman Kim Chong-pil's public apology at a press conference on Wednesday. Kim held a press conference at the DLP headquarters on Wednesday, but the outcome only fueled the DP's indignation.

"There have been reports that we tried to harm the DP by saying it was soft on communism and former presidential candidate Kim Tae- chung and the party have suffered emotional damages," Kim Chong-pil said. "But it was never our intention and it was highly regrettable." The DLP leader added, however, that it was inconceivable that there could have been such a remark and there ought not to be. Reacting sharply against Kim Chong-pil's remarks, the Democratic Party said it could not regard them as an apology and that it had to reassess its position.

In the floor leaders' meeting on Tuesday, the Democratic Party agreed to attend Kim Yong-sam's inauguration ceremony Thursday and take part in the National Assembly's deliberation on the appointment of the prime minister and chairman of the Board of Audit and Inspection. The Democratic Party will call a party caucus on Thursday morning to discuss countermeasures. DP Chairman Yi Ki-taek, who was in Taejon attending a local chapter reorganization meeting, told reporters that he could not accept Kim Chong-pil's remarks as an apology or an expression of regret.

In a statement issued by spokesman Pak Chi-won, the DP said Kim Chong-pil had made ambiguous remarks and ignored an agreement between the two parties on four specific items, including a statement that Kim Tae-chung had not been a communist sympathizer. "He (Kim Chong-pil) completely overturned our agreement and forgot his party's promises," Pak said.

Pak Hui-tae, spokesman for the Democratic Liberal Party, meanwhile, tried Wednesday morning to explain Kim Chong-pil's statement. Pak said the DLP executive chairman meant to say that the Democratic Party should try to understand DLP remarks during the campaign because they did not mean what the Democratic Party took them to mean.

In a separate development, the Democratic Party once again urged Prime Minister-designate Hwang In-song to give up his seat in the National Assembly. It indicated that if Hwang didn't, it could effect its deliberation on his confirmation. At the Democratic Liberal Party, all party post holders tendered their resignations Wednesday to give party leader Kim Yong-sam a free hand to reshuffle them. Kim Yong-sam is expected to make his appointments following the formation of his cabinet on Friday, sources said.

At the presidential office of Chongwadae, outgoing President No Tae-u presided over his last cabinet meeting Wednesday and visited the national cemetery with the members of his cabinet, winding up all his official duties as president. No especially thanked Prime Minister Hyon Sung-chong for his efforts in leading a politically neutral cabinet to oversee the Dec. 18 presidential election.

Over at the United People's Party, Rep. Kim Tong-kil, who had taken over the helm of the collapsing party three days ago, changed his resolute stance to a pessimistic one Wednesday, hinting that he was about ready to abandon the sinking ship. "When the chairmen asked me to take over the party, they should have first asked me whether I would be able to handle a 40 billion-won debt," Kim Tong-kil said. "I'm upset because I have no money, nothing."

New Asian Affairs Bureau Director Appointed

SK2402084393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0653 GMT 24 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 24 (YONHAP)—Yu Pyong-u, special assistant to the foreign minister, was appointed director-general of the Asian Affairs Bureau Wednesday. He replaces Kim Sok-u, who went to the presidential office as secretary for protocol. Yi Pyong-ki, senior presidential secretary for protocol, was named research commissioner to the Foreign Ministry's Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security.

Social Affairs Secretary-designate Profiled

SK2402065893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0633 GMT 24 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 24 (YONHAP)—Kim Chong-nam, senior presidential secretary-designate for social and cultural affairs, has been a dissident for about 30 years. Kim, 51, was a central figure in the student movement during opposition to the Seoul-Tokyo diplomatic normalization talks. President Pak Chong-hui declared martial law to stop the student demonstrations on June 3, 1964. The only jobs Kim has held since winning a degree in political science from Seoul National University are a stint on the PYONGHWA SINMUN, a weekly Roman Catholic Church newspaper, and as an editorial writer for the now-defunct daily MINJU ILBO.

Chief Presidential Secretary-designate Pak Kwan-yong, a friend, jokes that Kim worked for Democratization Co. Ltd. Kim first met Kim Yong-sam in 1974 when the nation's democratic forces were fighting against President Pak's Yusin (revitalization reforms) and they remained close even when the dissident community was supporting Kim Tae-chung.

Kim Chong-nam published a book, titled "I and the Truth of My Fatherland," of remarks made by the next president during a hunger strike in 1983. He is a friend of Rep. Kim Tok-yong of the Democratic Liberal Party, one of Kim Yong-sam's closest aides, since their university days. Kim headed Kim Yong-sam's Citizen's Alliance for the Creation of a New Korea during the election campaign last year. He is a native of Taejon. He has four daughters.

Kim Yong-sam To Discard Secretary for Policy Post

SK2402013393 Seoul YONHAP in English 2357 GMT 23 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 24 (YONHAP)—President-elect Kim Yong-sam has decided to scrap the job of senior presidential secretary for policy and create the post of senior secretary for social and cultural affairs. Kim will name Kim Chong-nam, a former journalist who has been active in the opposition political camp, to the new post, Kim's aides said Tuesday. The post of senior presidential secretary for policy has been vacant since Chon Pyong-min declined to accept the appointment after a controversy flared up over his background, the aides said. Kim Chong-nam, 51, worked for Kim Yong-sam during the presidential campaign from October last year as chairman of the citizen's alliance for the creation of a new Korea. He had been editorial writer for the catholic weekly PYONGHWA SHINMUN and the now-defunct daily MINJU ILBO.

Kim Yong-sam To Scale Down Presidential Secretariat

SK2402025793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0210 GMT 24 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 24 (YONHAP)—President-elect Kim Yong-sam has decided to scale down the size of the presidential secretariat by reducing the number of senior presidential secretaries from 12 to nine, his aides said Wednesday. Kim will also lower the grade of the chief of the presidential security service to the level of vice minister, the aides said. The tentative decision, made in consultation with chief presidential secretary designate Pak Kwan-yong, calls for the abolition of the positions of senior presidential secretary for justice and inspection, special assistant for political affairs and presidential aide for policy research. Instead, Kim plans to create a senior presidential secretary for social and cultural affairs and name Kim Chong-nam, a former journalist and chairman of the citizen's alliance for the creation of a new Korea, to the post.

Kim Yong-sam would not fill the job of senior presidential secretary for protocol and let a first-grade (assistant minister level) secretary fulfill the duties for the time being, the aides said. The post of chief presidential secretary would remain a cabinet minister's level appointment and senior presidential secretaries would have vice ministerial rank, they said. At present senior secretaries are minister or vice minister level. Along with these cuts, Kim will reduce the number of officials of mid- and lower-ranks. Officials at the office of senior secretary for political affairs, who were in charge of liaison between Chongwadae and the National Assembly and opposition parties, will be reduced to one or two from the current three.

Kim will abolish the job of secretary in charge of economic research and social infrastructure in the office of the senior secretary for economic affairs. He will also transfer the job of civil petition from the office of senior secretary for petition and information to the office of senior secretary for administrative affairs. The work of senior secretary for justice and inspection would be taken over by the Board of Audit and Inspection and the anti-corruption committee, which is soon to be established. A legal secretary there would be transferred to the office of senior secretary for civil petitions and information. In addition, secretaries on loan from ministries and other government agencies would be sent back to their former positions, the aides said.

Farmers Plan Inauguration-Day Demonstration

SK2402082993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0740 GMT 24 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 24 (YONHAP)—A group of South Korean farmers said Wednesday that they planned to occupy a skyscraper and burn rice husks during Kim Yong-sam's inauguration to dramatize their protest against pressure for rice market opening. Since the 80 members of the North Cholla chapter of the National Farmers' Federation (Chonnong) came to Seoul with 90 80-kilogram sacks of rice and 70 boxes of rice hulls on Sunday, they have been demonstrating at the Korea National Council of Churches [KNCC] building in Yonji-tong, Chongno-ku.

They said that Kim pledged to keep the rice market closed and to buy all of their crops when he was running for president, and they were angry because he has not kept his promise yet. Kim will be inaugurated in Yoido on Thursday. The police have banned the farmers from Yoido and confiscated 30 sacks of unpolished rice from the KNCC building Wednesday morning. Twenty-six farmers caught distributing leaflets were taken to a police station in Puan, North Cholla Province, on Tuesday.

Police Put on Nationwide Alert for Inauguration

SK2302015093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0132 GMT 23 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 23 (YONHAP)—The National Police Administration declared a nationwide alert Tuesday through Friday morning for the presidential inauguration of Kim Yong-sam on Thursday. All leave for police and riot troopers has been canceled and intelligence-gathering activities stepped up to prevent terrorist acts or demonstrations around the National Assembly building while the inauguration is in progress.

In a related move, the Seoul police will bar traffic from roads near the National Assembly from Tuesday to Thursday. No trucks or cars will be allowed within a radius of three kilometers of the building, and all traffic except for cars carrying guests will be banned from roads and bridges leading to the inauguration site from 7:30 A.M. Thursday.

Dissident Groups Criticize Choice of Premier

SK2202143593 Seoul YONHAP in English 1151 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Text] Kwangju, Feb. 22 (YONHAP)—An association of dissidents organizations here in Kwangju and South Cholla Province on Monday criticized President-elect Kim Yong-sam's selection of Rep. Hwang In-song as his prime minister. In a statement, the Kwangju-South cholla Province Alliance for Democracy and National Unification said Hwang's selection makes them question President-elect Kim's intent of reforms.

Rep. Hwang hails from Muju, North Cholla Province, part of the southwestern Honam area which had long been the stronghold of Kim Tae-chung, political rival of the president-elect before he retired from politics late last year. "Hwang is an old-age man who, a retired army general-grade officer, had held key posts under the yushin (revitalizing reforms) regime and the Sixth Republic. We are both saddened and angered at such a window-dressing appointment made under the cloak of a special regard for a specific area,'" the statement said.

DLP To Clear DP of 'Sympathies' With Communism

SK2302091793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0821 GMT 23 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 23 (YONHAP)—The Democratic Liberal Party [DLP], with the hope of ending months-long row over the ideological color of the main opposition Democratic Party [DP], decided Tuesday to publicly apologize for pre-election allegations of communist sympathies in a press conference Wednesday. DLP Executive Chairman Kim Chong-pil will apologize for DLP remarks made during the presidential election campaign that the DP was soft on communism and that then-DP leader Kim Tae-chung was sympathetic to communists. He will also promise that there will be no repetition of the incident.

The DLP decision was conveyed to the DP in a floor leaders' meeting at the National Assembly Tuesday. The DP has maintained that its lawmakers would not attend the inauguration of Kim Yong-sam on Thursday unless the DLP cleared ideological suspicions about it.

The two sides agreed to discuss the creation of a special committee to revise political laws and hold chief policymakers' talks on the Uruguay Round multilateral trade talks. The house passed eight bills on restructuring government organizations and replacement of the assembly's Energy and Resources Committee with the Trade, Industry, Energy and Resources Committee. The Energy and Resources, and the Sports and Youth Ministries will be dissolved under a bill on government organizations passed by the assembly. The DP voted against the revision bills on restructuring government organizations and the National Assembly law, submitted by the DLP.

Chong Chu-yong Submits Resignation to Assembly

SK2302125193 Seoul YONHAP in English 1225 GMT 23 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 23 (YONHAP)—Chong Chu-yong, former head of the United People's Party, tendered a letter of resignation to the National Assembly Tuesday afternoon. Chong was elected to the National Assembly in early last year's general elections on the ticket of national representation of the United People's Party. Chong's floor seat will be succeeded to by Ms. Kang Pu-cha, a television actress, who is on the top of the waiting list of national representation of the opposition party.

The resignation of Chong, who is now on an overseas trip, was handed to the National Assembly Secretariat through Rep. Chong Chang-hyon, a close associate of Chong Chu-yong. Kang Pu-cha, who is also very close to Chong Chu-yong, is likely to bolt from the United People's Party after her succession to the floor seat took effect.

DP Rejects DLP Apology for Remarks During Election

SK2402041193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0305 GMT 24 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 24 (YONHAP)—Kim Chong-pil, executive chairman of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP), made a formal statement of regret to the main opposition Democratic Party (DP) Wednesday for remarks against Kim Tae-chung and the DP during the December presidential election. The DP rejected the statement, however, saying the DLP leader was not making a clear apology, nullifying what had been agreed on the day before. "The executive chairman failed to say clearly that Kim Tae-chung was not sympathetic to communists," DP spokesman Pak Chi-won said.

Kim Chong-pil told a news conference at DLP headquarters he was sorry for remarks made during the campaign "that could have caused misunderstanding on the part of the other party given the special circumstances of the election and damaged the emotion of the Democratic Party." The DP is upset over charges that it and then-leader Kim Tae-chung was sympathetic to communists.

"Our party had no intention of hurting former (presidential) candidate Kim Tae-chung and the Democratic Party," Kim said. "We regret the dispute and shall try to prevent recurrence. "We hope the DP will understand our intention and put an end to the dispute." Kim suggested that the DP cooperate with the DLP for productive and constructive operation of the National Assembly.

DP spokesman Pak accused Kim Chong-pil of reneging on a four-point agreement reached between floor leaders of the two parties on Tuesday, including a public announcement that Kim Tae-chung was not soft on communism. Pak demanded that Kim give a clear explanation of the remarks and apologize as had been agreed. DP leaders, now attending a district chapter meeting in Taejon, huddled to discuss whether to attend Thursday's inauguration of Kim Yong-sam. The DP has maintained that it would not attend the ceremony unless the DLP publicly cleared it of the ideological suspicions.

Taejon Judge Recommended for Supreme Court

SK2302055193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0525 GMT 23 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 23 (YONHAP)—Chief Justice Kim Tok-chu asked President No Tae-u on Tuesday to name Judge Chon Kyong-song, chief of the Taejon Higher Court, to the Supreme Court. Chon would replace Justice Yi Hoe-chang, who has been tapped as chairman of the Board of Audit and Inspection by President-elect Kim Yong-sam. The recommendation appears to be aimed at getting the National Assembly to confirm Yi and Chon at the same time, a Supreme Court source said.

A native of Haenam, South Cholla Province, Chon, 54, graduated from Seoul National University's Law College in 1962, a year after he passed the state test for judiciary posts. He has specialized in civil cases throughout most of his career and published many papers on legal issues involving environmental problems and disputes, a rare achievement for a jurist. He is married to Choe Song-hui, 51, and they have three daughters.

Court Reduces Sentence for Socialist Organizer

SK2002060093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0529 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 20 (YONHAP)—The Seoul High Court reduced Paik Tae-ung's life sentence for organizing the South Korean Socialist Workers' Alliance and infiltrating some 3,500 members into factories and campuses to overthrow the government to 15 years Saturday. The bench said it had reduced Paik's sentence because of his repentance and renunciation of violent revolution. Paik was indicted in May 1992 with Pak No-hae, who helped him organize the alliance, known as "Sanomaeng."

ROK Opens Detention Center for Illegal Aliens

SK2002022493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0131 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 20 (YONHAP)—South Korea's first detention center for illegal aliens was opened Saturday in Seoul with a tape-cutting ceremony. It will be used to house illegal aliens currently being held in immigration offices or prisons, a Justice Ministry spokesman said. There is room for 150 people, and more centers will be built on a gradual basis to meet soaring demand. The ministry netted 76,119 illegal aliens last year, mostly ethnic Koreans from China and Southeast Asians, up 440 percent over 1991.

Ministry Says Drug Addiction Declines in ROK

SK2002045393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0229 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 20 (YONHAP)—Drug addiction has declined in South Korea due to government efforts and a new awareness among the general public, but more could be done, the Health and Social Affairs Ministry said Saturday. The number of addicts who received hospital treatment fell to 88 in 1992 from 527 in 1988 and all were addicted to hydrochloric ephedrine, a methamphetamine known here as hiroppon.

The government could further reduce the number of addicts if it cracked down on production facilities and imports, the ministry said, adding that Korea has been evaluated as an exemplary drug controlling country by the United Nations since 1990. The government charged 2,968 people with drug abuse last year.

Rural Population Decreases; Farms Growing Bigger

SK2102034193 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 21 Feb 93 p 9

[Text] The rural population is shrinking and farms are growing bigger, the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry said yesterday.

As of the end of last year, Korea had 1.64 million farming families, off 3.6 percent from a year earlier, and the farming population was 5.7 million, down 6 percent.

The farming population was 13.1 percent of the total population, down from 14 percent in 1991, but the average farm grew to 1.26 hectares from 1.23 hectares.

The farming population comprises 2.94 million women (51.6 percent) and 2.76 million men (48.4 percent).

The data was obtained from a survey of 4,101 sample districts.

Government To Privatize Selected State-Run Banks

SK2402014993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0132 GMT 24 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 24 (YONHAP)—President-elect Kim Yong-sam has decided to free the Citizens National Bank and the Industrial Bank of Korea from state management this year as part of liberalization of the financial industry, an aide to Kim said Wednesday. Kim has also decided to gradually put other state-owned banks such as the Korea Development Bank, Korea Exchange Bank and the Export and Import Bank of Korea, under private management, the aide said. Kim believes he can enhance the efficiency of the financial sector by putting state-controlled banks into private hands, the aide said.

The citizens national bank is mainly for the grassroots, and the industrial bank is a main source of loans for small- and medium-sized firms. Kim's team is drawing up details such as investment limits for conglomerates to prevent their domination, the aide said. His government might place state-run companies such as the Korea Tobacco and Ginseng Corp. and the Korea National Tourism Corp. under the private management as well, the aide said.

Burma

Military Exercise, Arms Factory With PRC Alleged

BK2402094393 Oslo Democratic Voice of Burma in Burmese 1430 GMT 23 Feb 93

[From "Shwe Maung-Daung Nyo" dialogue program]

[Excerpts] [Daung Nyo] How are you doing, Ko Shwe Maung? What a coincidence meeting you in the market! What have you come to buy?

[Shwe Maung] Well, Ko Daung Nyo, I have come to buy a fluorescent light before the market closes. [passage omitted]

[Shwe Maung] Our Burma was once famous as a top exporter of rice. Now, under the SLORC [State Law and Order Restoration Council], we are infamous for our status as the world's top exporter of opium.

[Daung Nyo] Actually, the opium problem could be eradicated if they have the will. However, the SLORC military officials and Yunnan provincial officials are engaged in blackmarketeering through their understanding with the opium traders .

[Shwe Maung] As for myself, I am not pleased with SLORC's close ties with China.

[Daung Nyo] Well, Ko Shwe Maung, since the power seizure by the SLORC in 1988, China had been giving economic, military, and political support to the SLORC. It is not strange for the SLORC to cling to China, which is the only country to give encouragement and support to the SLORC, while the whole world is condemning and opposing it.

[Shwe Maung] Well, it is not at all strange. They have reasons to cling to the father [China]. You may have heard, Ko Daung Nyo, that Chinese and Burmese military officials met in Mu-se last January.

[Daung Nyo] Who were the SLORC military officials?

[Shwe Maung] Members of the SLORC delegation included Lieutenant Colonel Ye Myint, deputy commander from the Northeast Military Command; Lt. Col. Kyaw Thein from the Military Intelligence; and Lt. Col. Than Tin, SLORC military attache.

[Daung Nyo] Go on, it sounds interesting.

[Shwe Maung] The content of their discussions are not known. The local people, however, witnessed more than 300 military trucks and military equipment and weapons traveling from China to Burma.

[Daung Nyo] Talking about military equipment, I heard this morning that China gave the SLORC 160 armored personnel carriers. Isn't that right, Ko Shwe Maung?

[Shwe Maung] That is right, Ko Daung Nyo. Now it is said that this time the military support includes long-range weapons and other military equipment from 40-mm rocket launchers to 120-mm mortars and 130-mm modern rocket launchers.

[Daung Nyo] Not only does China control the SLORC Army, but Chinese troops and the SLORC troops are carrying out joint military exercises.

[Shwe Maung] Are you sure, Ko Daung Nyo? Where was this military exercise held?

[Daung Nyo] I am quite sure about it. Such matters can no longer be concealed these days. This matter is known to all the military intelligence people in the country. This military exercise was held in Chengdu in China's Sichuan Province. It was learned that the exercise included use of modern military weapons.

[Shwe Maung] The SLORC is getting more and more foolish. For instance, it is learned that under the 1991 military agreement, the SLORC is building a joint venture weapons factory with China in Mergui in Tenasserim Division and it is almost completed.

[Daung Nyo] What kind of weapons are going to be produced at the factory?

[Shwe Maung] It will produce M-21, M-22, and M-23 machine guns and ammunition. This factory is expected to be completed this year. I feel very sad for Burma, Ko Daung Nyo.

[Daung Nyo] When the people are still suffering from economic and political instability and the civil war continues, they do not think of peace in the country, but think only of producing weapons, killing people, and seizing power.

[Shwe Maung] Furthermore, the SLORC and China signed another agreement last January. Under the agreement, China will willingly help construct three major highways from Yunnan Province to Kachin State in Burma.

[Daung Nyo] Of course, they are willing. In times of war, China can move down along these highways and annex Burma in a matter of hours.

[Shwe Maung] What you say makes sense. In our history, we have a precedent of China using Mongol troops to sack the Kingdom of Pagan during the reign of Nara Thihapatei. [passage omitted]

Convention Convening Commission Meets 23 Feb

BK2402011693 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 23 Feb 93

[Text] The 54th meeting of the National Convention Convening Commission [NCCC] was held at 1400 today in the Office of the NCCC. The meeting was attended by Major General Myo Nyunt, chairman of the NCCC;

Maj. Gen. Maung Thint and Brigadier General Myo Thant, deputy chairmen; and commission members.

Maj. Gen. Myo Nyunt, chairman of the NCCC, delivered an opening address at the meeting. Next, members of the NCCC submitted the reports of the National Convention Convening Work Committee and the Management Committee.

The meeting ended after Maj. Gen. Myo Nyunt, chairman of the NCCC, delivered a closing address.

Convention Delegates Hold Plenary Session 24 Feb

BK2402092993 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 0630 GMT 24 Feb 93

[Text] The plenary session of the National Convention was held this morning at the Central Meeting Hall in the President's House Compound on Ahlone Road at 1000. The plenary session was chaired by Alternate Chairman U Tha Zan Hla from the National League for Democracy [NLD] and includes panel of chairmen members U Win Tin, U Mahn Tin Aung Than, U Naing San Shein, U Saio Tint Aung, U San Tin, U Aung Than, U Kyi Aye, and U Za Khung Ting Ring. U Khin Maung Myint acted as secretary of the meeting.

Today's National Convention Plenary Session was attended by Major General Myo Nyunt, chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission [NCCC], and members; U Aung Toe, chairman of the National Convention Convening Work Committee [NCCWC], and members; Brigadier General Tin Aye, chairman of the National Convention Convening Management Committee [NCCMC], and members; local and foreign journalists; and 686 National Convention delegates, who are representatives of political parties, elected representatives, national races, peasants, workers, the intelligentsia, public service, and other special invitees.

First, the meeting was declared valid and open. Alternate Chairman U Tha Zan Hla delivered an address in accordance with the program. Next, according to the program, the various groups of national convention delegates then presented their papers on chapter headings which should be included in the constitution. These papers were coordinated in the panel discussions.

In the political parties representatives group, U Aung Shwe, chairman of NLD, presented NLD's paper while U Sai Aik Paung, general secretary of Shan Nationalities League for Democracy [SNLD], read the SNLD's report. The afternoon session is currently in progress.

It has been learned that before the meeting, Maj. Gen. Myo Nyunt, NCCC chairman, and members; and U Aung Toe, NCCWC chairman, and members, cordially met and greeted each and every one of the delegates to the plenary session.

NUP Suggests Legalizing SLORC Actions

BK2402114293 Hong Kong AFP in English 1130 GMT 24 Feb 93

[Text] Rangoon, Feb 24 (AFP)—Burma's former ruling party suggested Wednesday a new constitution should legalise the actions of the junta before any transfer of power.

The National Unity Party (NUP) submitted its proposal at a plenary session of Burma's on-going constitutional convention here.

The NUP said the military would continue to be needed during the transitional period after a new constitution was adopted and before a constitutional government emerged.

Burma's junta, known as the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), took power after quelling mass pro-democracy street protests in 1988.

"It is necessary that the (SLORC) continues to preserve law and order during the transitional period as it is doing now to ensure peace and tranquility," NUP secretary general Tun Yi said.

The NUP was formerly known as the Burma Socialist Programme Party (BSPP) and was Burma's sole political party after a 1962 military takeover. Days after the SLORC was set up in September 1988 the BSPP changed its name to the NUP.

The then BSPP similarly legalised the actions of the military after the 1962 takeover, analysts here noted.

The plenary session of the national convention held at the president's house Wednesday heard representations by eight political parties on proposed chapters to be included in the new state constitution.

The session was attended by a total of 868 delelgates who had completed panel discussions since February 1 when the convention resumed after a 20-day adjournment.

Altogether 18 submissions to be included in a new constitution are expected to be read out during the plenary sessions slated to end on March 3, according to an agenda issued Wednesday.

Eight political parties which submitted papers Wednesday, including the main opposition National League for Democracy (NLD) of detained opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, agreed the military should also be a subject for discussion.

One of six objectives laid down for the national convention calls for the military's participation in future national politics, a controversial issue, analysts said.

The submissions for Thursday's session includes a paper by the NLD's elected candidates to be presented separately from the others.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Ministry Announces Military Leadership Reshuffle

BK2302143093 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in Malay 1300 GMT 23 Feb 93

[Text] Army Chief General Datuk Sri Abdul Rahman Abdul Hamid has been appointed the new chief of defense forces to replace Gen. Tan Sri Yaacob Mohamed Zain, who is to retire on 31 May.

A statement from the Ministry of Defense today also announced the appointment of the present deputy chief of Air Force, Major General Datuk Haji Abdul Ghani Tan Sri Abdul Aziz, as the new Air Force chief. He will replace Lieutenant General Datuk Sri Mohamed Yunus Tasi, who will retire on 19 August.

The present deputy chief of Army, Lt. Gen. Datuk Borhan Ahmad, will assume the post of Army chief, which is being vacated by Gen. Abdul Rahman. The new deputy army chief is Maj. Gen. Datuk Abdul Manaf Ibrahim, who is currently the commander of First Army Division in Sabah and Sarawak. The commander of the Air Force Support Division, Brigadier General Datuk Fadli Hussien, is now the new deputy chief of Air Force.

Minister Discloses Export, Import Figures

BK2302073493 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0600 GMT 23 Feb 93

[Text] Malaysia, which is now the world's 24th largest exporting nation, had every possibility to achieve the 100-billion ringgit mark for exports last year, surpassing the 1991 mark of 94.7 billion ringgit. The minister of international trade and industry, Datuk Sri Rafidah Aziz, said the country's exports grew by 9.6 percent during the first 10 months of 1992 over the corresponding period in 1991.

The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade's international trade report for 1991-1992 has placed Malaysia as the 24th largest exporting nation as compared with the 40th place in 1980. While the world's merchandise exports in value terms grew 13.5 percent 1990, Malaysia's exports expanded by 17.4 percent. In 1991, world merchandise exports in value terms plunged to a meagre growth of 1.5 percent, while Malaysia's exports grew 18.9 percent.

Malaysia's dynamism was also reflected in its imports, ranking from a low 40 in 1980 to become the 23d largest importing nation in 1991, surpassing a number of industrialized countries. Malaysia's imports grew to 101.1 billion ringgit in 1991 from 23.5 billion ringgit in 1980. For the first 10 months of last year, the country had already registered 84.4 billion ringgit in imports.

The ministry had approved investments totaling 107.5 billion ringgit in the manufacturing sector in the past six years. Of this, domestic investments totaled 41.1 billion ringgit, and foreign investments 66.4 billion ringgit covering 4,088 projects.

Datuk Sri Rafidah gave the figures at a dialogue session between the ministry and the private sector in Kuala Lumpur.

ASEAN Urged To Show 'Stronger Commitment' to AFTA

BK2302135793 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in Malay 1300 GMT 23 Feb 93

[Text] The Malaysian National Chamber of Trade and Industry, DPPKM, today calls on ASEAN to show a stronger commitment to efforts to create the proposed ASEAN Free Trade Area, AFTA. Speaking on the first day of the annual dialogue session between the Ministry of International Trade and Industry and the private sector in Kuala Lumpur today, DPPKM President Tan Sri Wan Azmi Wan Hamzah said there are indications that Thailand and Indonesia are not contributing their utmost efforts to helping Malaysia bring AFTA to fruition.

The series of meetings between the ministry and representatives of various chambers of commerce is expected to last nine days.

Tan Sri Wan Azmi said in view of the fact that Malaysia was one of the first countries to adopt the tariff reduction arrangement, its industrial products are exposed to stiff competition with goods from other Asian countries.

Meanwhile, the Common Preferential Trade, CPT, agreement will reduce its tariff to between 0 and 5 percent by the year 2007 to ensure the creation of AFTA.

Investors Urged To Enter Growing ASEAN Market

BK2002094493 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Text] Local investors should take the opportunities to enter the fast-developing ASEAN market. Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said they should also develop their own research and development capabilities so they will not have to depend only on imported technology. He said this at the opening of Perwaja's steel plant in Gurun, Kedah. The plant costing 400 million ringgit is equipped with one of the most modern technology in the country and will produce two basic products—steel wire rods and steel round bars with an annual capacity of 450,000 tons.

Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir said the aspirations of countries in the region to develop their economies would increase the demand for steel and steel products. The formation of the ASEAN Free Trade Area will also liberalize trade among ASEAN nations in the years to come. He said Perwaja's plant in Gurun was expected to strengthen related industries as well as the export capacity of the country.

Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir said the Gurun plant which was entering a more sophisticated downstream [words indistinct] would promote higher value-added products. He hoped that the establishment of the Gurun plant would encourage more investments into the processing of iron and steel.

Foreign Minister Comments on Thai Border Problems

BK2202085693 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Text] Thai and Malaysian authorities should inform each other of their actions along the common border to avoid confusion and misunderstanding, which could strain relations between both countries. Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi said the authorities should manage border activities on the principle of information exchange—that is, to alert each other to actions to be taken to avoid misunderstanding. He said this to reporters after seeing off Hungarian President Dr. Arpad Goncz at the airport in Subang.

Datuk Abdullah said the recent seizure of goods by Thai Customs at the Malaysia-Thai border was due to a misunderstanding between Malaysian and Thai authorities.

He was commenting on Deputy Home Minister Datuk Megat Junid Megat Ayub's statement yesterday that police investigations assured that the goods seized belonged to Thai smugglers. Datuk Megat Junid was also reported as saying that the scene of the incident was a stretch of "no man's land" at the Malaysia-Thai border.

Datuk Abdullah said similar incidents have occurred in the past and workers and personnel were to handle the problem with caution so as not to complicate matters further. He said it had been Malaysia and Thailand's policy to bring about economic development in their common border area and build strong bilateral cooperation between them. Both countries look forward to generating greater trade and commercial activities at the common border involving both sides.

Minister: New Option for Foreign Investors

BK2202130393 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0949 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Feb 22 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Foreign investors would be allowed to hold 100 per cent shareholding interest in their operations locally if they cannot find a suitable joint venture partner, Malaysian International Trade and Industry Minister Rafidah Aziz said Monday. She gave the assurance to the visiting members of the Japan Federation of Economic Organisation or Keidanren who said that their local operations here were facing difficulty in identifying local partners.

Rafidah was particularly replying to a question raised during a dialogue session by a mission member from the Hitachi Company Ltd of Japan, who said the present local joint venture partner in Malaysia did not want to invest further capital in the Hitachi operations here. Noting that this development was unusual, especially if Hitachi's operations were profitable in Malaysia, she said her officials would talk to the local partner to ascertain his reasons for declining to pump in more capital.

If for some reason, fresh capital is not forthcoming from the local partner, we may consider to allow Hitachi to hold 100 per cent shareholding in their local operations, she said. She also said the ministry might consider allowing Japanese export based companies operating in Malaysia to sell their products in the local market. This was raised during the dialogue by one of the mission members, whose company operates in Malaysia, if the products manufactured by his company, could be sold locally.

Mission members includes chief executive officers from Fuji Bank, Komatsu Ltd. Mitsubishi heavy industries Ltd, Toyota Motor Corporation, Sanwa Bank, Ajinomoto Co Ltd, Nissan Motors, Hitachi, NEC Corporation, Mitsubishi Corporation and Marubeni Corporation. The Keidanren mission to Malaysia is led by its chairman Gaishi Hiraiwa, who is also chairman of Tokyo Electric Power Company Incorporated. The mission is on a four-day visit here beginning Sunday.

During the dialogue, Rafidah who briefed the mission about intra-ASEAN trade and cooperation, with Japan and other countries, said the level of cooperation would be alleviated further with the introduction of schemes such as the ASEAN Free Trade Area [AFTA].

Rafidah said the ASEAN Industrial Joint Venture (AIJV) programme initiated by the region has now decided to allow non-ASEAN partners to participate in their projects. I hope with the expansion of partners to include those outside ASEAN, Japan would seize this opportunity to take up partnership in several projects for which there has been no suitable partners, she said.

She however explained that with AFTA coming to fruition in [word indistinct] years, the region hoped to attract more Japanese investment in order to expand intra-ASEAN trade.

Because of national interest, ASEAN countries continue to compete for direct foreign investment, but this should not be the case, she said, adding that this would only negate any benefit that is to be derived from intra-ASEAN Cooperation.

She urged the private sectors of ASEAN countries to undertake joint venture projects on the basis of comparative advantage.

On Malaysia's investment in China and Vietnam, she explained the government viewed developments in those countries positively especially where Malaysian expertise would be sought after.

Malaysia was already involved in the setting up of export processing zones in Vietnam while the country was actively involved in rendering expertise in timber, rubber and palm oil cultivation in China, she said.

Japan is Malaysia's largest trading partner with total trade, from January to October 1992, amounting to [Malaysian ringgit] RM32.95 billion (US$12.67 billion) accounting for 19.5 per cent of Malaysia's global trade.

1992 Industrial Production Index Rises 8.6%

BK2302092493 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 23 Feb 93

[Text] Malaysia's industrial production index, IPI, rose 8.6 percent to 151.5 last year from 139.5 in 1991. The Statistics Department attributed the higher index to the increase in all three divisions—mining, manufacturing, and electricity—which constituted the industrial sector. The mining division rose by 2.7 percent. The manufacturing division 10.5 percent, and the electricity division 14 percent.

Singapore

Reportage on Visit of German Chancellor Kohl

Goh, Kohl Meet, Hold Talks

BK2302132993 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1100 GMT 23 Feb 93

[Text] Singapore and Germany have agreed to intensify and give more structure to their already excellent bilateral relations. This was disclosed after a meeting today between the prime minister, Mr. Goh Chok Tong, and Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said officials of both countries would work out concrete areas (?where) bilateral relations could be substantially enhanced. These include science and technology and research and development.

Earlier, Chancellor Kohl told a news conference that Singapore is an important partner for Germany as it has a strategic location for being a centre for high technology companies, services, and finance. He spoke of a number of other proposals agreed by the prime minister.

Mr. Kohl thought that the time was favorable for bilateral cooperation in several countries. He had in mind infrastructure projects in China and other countries.

Chancellor Kohl, who is on a three-day visit, pointed out that Germany has an interest in Asia and the region. He said Mr. Goh has accepted an invitation to visit Germany early next year.

Mr. Kohl, who is in Singapore, as part of an Asian tour, which will take him to Indonesia tomorrow.

Goh Hosts State Dinner

BK2302152293 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1400 GMT 23 Feb 93

[Summary from poor reception] Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong says Singapore can be a strategic platform for Germany to expand her interests in the Asia-Pacific. He says Singapore can be a partner for Germany in new areas of cooperation like research and development and technical training for developing countries.

Speaking at the state dinner for Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Mr. Goh said big German firms have long established themselves in the region. It is now a time to encourage small and medium firms to invest here. Mr. Goh also urged Germany to take a firm stand against any move towards unhealthy protectionism.

In his speech, the German leader said that Europe will remain one of the foundations of free world trade. He said Germany will have no part in a fortress Europe. Mr. Kohl said one his many concerns is to increase German business activity in Singapore and the region.

Chancellor Kohl told a news conference that Mr. Goh has accepted an invitation to visit Germany early next year. Mr. Kohl is in Singapore as part of an Asian tour which will take him to Indonesia tomorrow.

Kohl Urges Speedy End to GATT Talks

LD2302153993 Hamburg DPA in German 1228 GMT 23 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Singapore (DPA)—Germany and Singapore intend to cooperate at various levels in development aid policy and to promote the peace process in Asian countries jointly. [passage omitted]

During a banquet, Helmut Kohl stressed that the peace process in Cambodia and rapprochement between Vietnam and Laos are encouraging steps. He hoped that economic liberalization in China will also be followed by political reforms. He said this would be a contribution to long-term stability in Asia.

Kohl stressed with satisfaction that the volume of trade between Germany and Singapore amounted to almost 7 billion German marks last year. [passage omitted]

While addressing journalists after his talks with Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, Kohl called on the U.S. Government to conclude the GATT negotiations speedily, particularly in view of fears of a "Fortress Europe". He said that the Clinton government has to recognize that with the trade and tariffs agreement free world trade will bring economic dynamism.

Kohl Reveals Plans for Joint Projects

BK2402104193 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 24 Feb 93 p 1

[By Chai Kim Wah]

[Text] German Chancellor Helmut Kohl announced yesterday that Singapore and Germany had agreed to undertake joint projects in the Third World,including China and African countries.

He said that he and Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong had discussed in detail plans for joint development projects in "countries where investment, expertise, technical knowhow from Singapore and Germany could be put to very good use."

Speaking to reporters at a press conference, the chancellor, who is here on a three-day official visit, said that Singapore and Germany would set up an advisory council to oversee the pooling of economic resources for such joint ventures and ensure their efffcient operation.

He did not specify the targeted projects.

This is his first Asian tour since East and West Germany were united in October 1990.

Mr. Kohl, who arrived on Monday night, met Mr. Goh yesterday morning.

According to a Foreign Ministry statement, he told Mr. Goh that while Germany was preoccupied with European affairs, it was also interested in having a presence in Southeast Asia and participating in its economic development.

The two leaders also agreed that bilateral ties were excellent but could be further intensified.

Towards this end, officials of the two countries would work out concrete areas where relations could be substantially enhanced, for example, cooperation in science and technology and research and development, the statement said.

The point about an outward-looking Germany was raised again by Mr. Kohl during his press conference.

He told reporters that there was no danger of a "Fortress Europe" and Germany would oppose any European protectionism.

He had been asked to comment on French President Francois Mitterrand's call to European Community (EC) member countries to be more protectionist in the face of cheap imports from Southeast Asia.

On the day Mr. Kohl began his five-nation tour to assure Asian countries that the EC would not turn inwards, Mr. Mitterrand said a united Europe could provide a protective shield against competition from cheaply-produced Asian goods.

Yesterday, Mr. Kohl said: "I am very confident we will not have a Fortress Europe. Neither do I think our French friends would want to see a Fortress Europe."

He gave the assurance that Germany would not back any moves to create a protectionist environment in Europe.

"I don't really perceive any danger of a Fortress Europe. We will not do it, we will not go along this line ... a Fortress Europe will not provide us with any economic advantage," he insisted.

He noted the widespread perception in Asia that a reunified Germany would now devote itself to forging European unity and to aiding reforms in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, gradually losing interest in other parts of the world.

"This is wrong," he said. "I very much hope that this visit will see to it that some of this thinking can be undone."

Germany had to remain outward-looking and open to this region, he said.

Mr. Kohl was praised by Mr. Goh during a dinner at the istana [palace] last night.

The prime minister commended the chancellor for his achievements in bringing about German reunification and for his understanding of the need for open market competition and freer trade.

Mr. Goh said that it was right for Germany to attach importance to the Asia-Pacific region and welcomed the country as a major economic partner.

At his press conference, Mr. Kohl said that Mr. Goh had accepted an invitation to visit Germany in spring next year to review progress of the things they discussed.

He also said Singapore and Germany completely agreed on the need for the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

"For us, free world trade is as important as the air that we breathe," he said.

Negotiations to liberalise world trade in goods and services have stalled on a dispute between the EC and the United States on cutting agricultural subsidies.

Mr. Kohl, calling himself "one of the passionate champions of concluding GATT," said that failure to reach a world trade agreement would be a major setback for Third World countries.

He said the vast sums spent by industrialised countries on aid to the Third World was far less than what Third World nations could earn for themselves from free trade.

However, he expressed confidence that a GATT agreement can be concluded this year, noting that United States President Bill Clinton, in his State of the Union address last week, said he would ask Congress to extend fast-track approval authority for GATT.

"I am confident that this year, Europe and the United States and all the other negotiating partners will get together and come to a successful conclusion. No one should harbour the illusion that one can win anything by building up a fortress mentality."

In the morning, Mr. Kohl was given a ceremonial welcome at the istana where the German national anthem, Deutscheland Lied, was played and he inspected a guard-of-honour.

He also called on President Wee Kim Wee and had a private talk with Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew who called on him at the Oriental Hotel.

He later went for a boat tour of the harbour and was hosted to dinner at the istana by Mr. Goh.

He will meet Singapore investors this morning before flying to Jakarta on the third leg of his Asian trip. He will follow this with visits to Japan and South Korea.

Police Leave To Help Oversee Cambodian Polls

BK2302125793 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1100 GMT 23 Feb 93

[Summary from poor reception] The last group of officers from the Singapore police force has left for Phnom Penh to serve with the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia. Twenty-five men will serve in the civilian police contingent known as Civpol. They will help oversee the UN-bolstered multiparty election in the country in May.

Cambodia

Minister Urges THE NATION To Make Correction

BK2402085093 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0406 GMT 24 Feb 93

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK Feb. 24—The Phnom Penh Government has reacted to an article run by the Thai language newspaper "THE NATION" saying that it could confuse the readers. In its issue of Feb. 14 the newspaper ran an article entitled "The fifth gopura at Khao Phra Viharn in Sisaket Province" accompanied by a picture of the Khmer temple of Preah Vihear.

In his reaction letter [words indistinct] to the editor-in-chief of THE NATION Mr. Hang Chuon, minister of culture of the State of Cambodia, was of the idea that the title "brings confusion to your readers, who might understand (?this) temple is located inside Thailand," however he did not come to the conclusion that the picture was titled on purpose.

"I would like to inform you that, relying on the [words indistinct] friendship between Cambodia and [words indistinct] of the State of Cambodia has (?authorized tourists) to visit the temple of Preah Vihear from Thailand," he said.

"You might know clearly that the temple of Preah Vihear belongs to Cambodia as stated in verdict of 15 June 1962 given by The Hague International Court of Justice," he assumed, asking the editor-in-chief "to make correction of the failure made on the above-mentioned title."

DPRK Vice President To Visit Phnom Penh

BK2402065493 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 24 Feb 93

[Text] At the invitation of His Excellency [H.E.] Chea Sim, chairman of the Cambodian People's Party Central Committee, National Assembly, and National Council of the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense, H.E. Yi Chong-ok, vice president of the DPRK, will pay an official visit to the State of Cambodia [SOC] from 24 to 28 February 1993.

During his stay in the SOC, the DPRK vice president will have an audience with His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, and will meet with other top leaders of the SOC.

Indian Government Delegation Departs 22 Feb

BK2402124893 Phnom Penh SPK in French 1054 GMT 24 Feb 93

[Text] Phnom Penh 24 Feb (SPK)—The Indian delegation led by Salman Haidar, secretary of the Republic of India's Government, left Cambodia on Monday at the end of a four-day visit.

During his stay, Salman Haidar held talks with Chea Sim, chairman of both the Cambodian People's Party and the National Assembly; Hun Sen, prime minister of the State of Cambodia and member of the Supreme National Council [SNC]; and Hor Namhong, foreign minister and SNC member.

He also visited Indian troops on a peace mission in Kompong Cham Province and Angkor Wat temple in Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province.

U.N. To Urge Honoring Aid Pledges

BK2402090893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0822 GMT 24 Feb 93

[By Sheri Prasso]

[Text] Phnom Penh, Feb 24 (AFP)—The United Nations will convene a donors' conference Thursday on aid to Cambodia to urge world powers to put their money where their 880 million U.S. dollars in pledges are.

More than 30 countries, the European Community and major world lenders such as the World Bank and Asian Development Bank (ADB) met in Tokyo last June and pledged the 880 million dollars in a grand effort to reconstruct this country devastated by almost two decades of civil war.

Eight months later, only 45 million dollars has been put into actual rehabilitation projects. No follow-up meetings have been held since Tokyo, and donor countries are taking a wait-and-see approach before building any bridges that might well be blown up in a renewed civil war.

The U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) called the pledges in Tokyo an "unqualified and spectacular success," but what has happened since then has been anything but successful.

The head of UNTAC's rehabilitation component left in November after a dispute with senior UNTAC officials, and donor countries have found themselves without a clear mechanism for distributing their money.

The Cambodian factions have refused to disarm and demobilize, contributing to serious insecurity in the countryside, where sporadic fighting between factions continues.

Prince Norodom Sihanouk himself, head of the interim Supreme National Council, is predicting war after the U.N.-run elections scheduled for May.

"Some countries just didn't want to put their money up until they saw what was happening in Cambodia," said one Western diplomat. "All of this (assistance) assumes a reasonably stable environment, and we all know that's not certain."

The money that has been distributed has gone primarily to the northwest zones controlled by the factions opposed to the Phnom Penh government.

"In this process some of the least developed provinces have been neglected," according to an UNTAC background paper distributed to conference participants.

In addition, the reconstruction of public utilities and infrastructure has been the most seriously underfunded, with only 4.7 million dollars disbursed of the 244 million pledged in Tokyo.

UNTAC maintains that donor countries have not produced as much funding as they pledged, although U.N. officials will not estimate just how much of the 880 million should have been spent already.

Donor countries, on the other hand, say UNTAC should have held such a conference six months ago to give a clear, coordinated direction for the aid money.

Of the 880 million dollars, another 49 million has already been spent for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees' repatriation program from camps along the border with Thailand.

In addition, loans already approved from the ADB and World Bank totalling 142 million dollars are expected to come through some time after the new government is elected in May.

Japan—the biggest contributor at Tokyo with 150 million dollars pledged—has started work on reconstructing a 16 million dollar bridge with its middle blown out that is one of the landmarks of the Phnom Penh skyline.

Sihanouk, UNDP Sign Reconstruction Protocol

BK2402092393 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 24 Feb 93

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state, father of the Cambodian nation, and chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC], and Mr. Edouard Wattez, representative of the UN Development Program [UNDP], signed a protocol on the reconstruction of Cambodia at Khemarin Palace on 22 February 1993. The document consists of seven sections, including a development program and the enhancement of the ability to manage and distribute electricity, water, and telephone lines in Phnom Penh and Sihanoukville. The UNDP will provide technical expertise aimed at improving the distribution of water and electricity. It will also organize a technical training course on, carry out research in, and provide the necessary materials for the urgent restoration of these two sectors.

Moreover, the protocol also covers the restoration of roads in Pursat Province and a stretch of National Route 5 damaged in Kompong Chhnang Province, as well as the organization of a technical training course on the restoration of the stretch of National Route 5, bridges, canals, and hospitals in Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Provinces.

Agriculture Ministry: Extra Rice Needed in 1993

BK2402085493 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0400 GMT 24 Feb 93

[Text] Phnom Penh 24 Feb (SPK)—The Agriculture Ministry recently held a meeting at the Chamak Dong Agronomic Institute to review the past year's activities and define tasks for next year.

According to a report presented at this meeting, the area cultivated with rice in 1992 was only 1,844,000 hectares—of which over 158,720 hectares were destroyed by natural disasters—with a total yield of 1,888,000 tonnes of paddy.

To respond to the need of the population—estimated at more than 9 million persons—Cambodia needs about 257,000 tonnes of additional rice in 1993, stressed the ministry's report.

In 1992, the whole country exploited over 118,800 cubic meters of timber, including 38,264 cubic meters by private firms while afforestation was carried out on 744 hectares.

Fishing production was 102,600 tonnes of which 68,900 tonnes are freshwater fish.

Present at the meeting were Vice Chairman of the Council of Ministers Kong Sam-ol, and Agriculture Minister Nguon Nhel.

Commentary Denounces State Department Reports

BK2402122993 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 23 Feb 93

[Unattributed commentary: "Denouncing the report by UNTAC spokesman and U.S. State Department who dupe others on human rights in Cambodia and side with the Yuon aggressors to collude in killing the Cambodian nation, people, and race"]

[Text] I. Recently there were reports by the UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] spokesman and the U.S. State Department concerning human rights in Cambodia. Please examine every point in these reports.

1. These reports did not say a word about the great criminal activities of the Yuon [Vietnamese] aggressors, who massacred the Cambodian people and destroyed their property over the past 14 years.

2. These reports did not say a word about the Hanoi Yuon sending over 2 million Vietnamese nationals to annex Cambodian territory in accordance with the Indochinese federation strategy of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

3. These reports did not say a word about the Yuon issuing Cambodian identity cards to over 1.3 million Vietnamese nationals in order to annex Cambodia through UNTAC election and through the use of Yuon men.

4. These reports did not say a word about the Yuon aggressors annexing and plundering water, land, property, forest timber, fish, the Tonle Sap, and sea, and so on. In eastern Cambodia, the Yuon aggressors have annexed a lot of Cambodian territory. These reports say nothing about this at all.

II. These reports repeat statements made by the puppets, who are the Yuon's lackeys. They attempt to deceive the international audience with their propaganda when they say that they have allotted land to the people in this or that way. They are a plot in the collusion with the Yuon's puppets and are exaggerations.

Everyone knows that for 13 years, and even today, the Yuon aggressors and the puppet leaders, lackeys of the Yuon, have been plundering the people's land. The land is distributed among themselves, sold, and then they pocket the money. This happens in Phnom Penh and in various provinces.

III. The reports by the UNTAC spokesman and the U.S. State Department slanderously say that the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] violates the rights of people in the zones it controls. This is a lie and a deception in the service of dark political goals.

The fact is that people in the PDK-controlled zones have all kinds of rights. They have the right to farm, to solve water problems, to have religious beliefs, to move about, and to earn a living, and so on. The PDK has policies in PDK-controlled zones. They are implementing a policy to allocate land to the people and to solve water problems for the people for sustained production. There is no corruption and robbery here. There are no terrorist activities, no threat and intimidation, and no mistreatment.

Many Western reporters and television teams have (?daily/yearly) said that the PDK is generally supported by people in rural areas who also take part in activities against the Yuon aggressors and the Yuon's puppets. This is because Democratic Kampuchea [DK] pays attention to the economic and political interests and the daily life of people in rural areas. The PDK does not do anything to disturb the people. DK pays correct prices for what it buys from sellers, and so on.

IV. The reports by the UNTAC spokesman and the U.S. State Department are vague when they refer to the Supreme National Council's [SNC] having a role and full sovereignty, and so on. This is a complete lie. It is a fact that since the SNC was set up, and since the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement came into existence, the SNC has no rights and power, and no role as the legitimate and the sole source of power in Cambodia during the transitional period, as stipulated in the agreement. The Yuon's puppets are still in power. They decide everything, while the SNC is only an empty shell.

On this issue, the prince [Norodom Sihanouk] said in his 17 February 1993 clarification that the SNC has no rights and power whatsoever.

V. The reports by UNTAC spokesman and the U.S. State Department say that 4.5 or 4.7 million people have currently been registered for the election. This is a lie and is meant to deceive national and international audiences and to force others to assist, support, and take part in the elections organized by UNTAC in a still politically nonneutral Cambodia.

In Cambodia at present, the Yuon aggressors and their puppets are trampling on and violating the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement with the collusion of UNTAC leaders. The violation by UNTAC leaders has led to the maintenance of the old Yuon aggressor force on Cambodian territory, while new Yuon forces continue to flow in. These old and new Yuon aggressor forces are giving orders to and actively working with the puppets, traitors to the nation, to carry out political terrorist and fascist activities to threaten, intimidate, and kill people and various political parties in Phnom Penh and in various provinces. This has created insecurity throughout the country, particularly in zones temporarily controlled by the Yuon aggressors and their puppets and lackeys.

These brutal activities of the Yuon aggressors and their puppets are spreading. The prince, in his 13 and 14 December 1992 statements and at later dates, said that there are political terrorist and fascist activities, and massacres of people and various political parties. This has plunged the Cambodian situation into complete darkness. On 14 February 1993 the prince clearly said he will not stand for elections because he realizes that the situation is insecure. The prince reasons that in such a situation, there will be a Yuon assembly and a Yuon administration. These elections will legitimize the Yuon aggressors' aggression in Cambodia.

NADK Denies Beating UNTAC Personnel

BK2402012893 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 23 Feb 93

["Denial by the Spokesman of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea, NADK, of Slanderous Reports That the NADK Has Captured and Beaten Staff Members of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia in Kompong Thom Province;" dated 24 February; place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] 1. Lately, slanderous reports have stated that the NADK has captured and beaten up UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] staff members in Kompong Thom Province.

2. The NADK totally rejects the reports, which are exaggerated and have the intent of lying to serve evil purposes.

3. A British UNTAC officer recently said the NADK is a correct, well-disciplined, and polite army.

[Dated] 24 February 1993
[Signed] NADK Spokesman

Government Spokesman Holds Weekly Briefing

BK2402092793 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 23 Feb 93

[Text] On the morning of 23 February at Sakal I Hotel, Khieu Kanharit, adviser to the prime minister and spokesman of the government of the State of Cambodia [SOC], and General Phan Thai, adviser to the prime minister, held a weekly news conference which was attended by national and international reporters and representatives of various embassies in Cambodia.

Khieu Kanharit said the purpose of His Excellency [H.E.] Hun Sen's last week visit to Battambang and Pursat Provinces was to seek facts about the (?current) situation and consult with local officials. The important point of that consultation was on how to create a neutral political atmosphere and provide security for the election process and the offices of various political parties in localities. The situation in Battambang was not as (?bad as) UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] reported.

Khieu Kanharit stressed: we are observing whether this represents political support by the UNTAC spokesman or some UNTAC sectors, such as the information sector. Judging from the background of some individuals in that UNTAC sector, we can see that they had supported this or that party in the past. However, we do not take this to be the policy of UNTAC itself.

Concerning the coming election campaign, Khieu Kanharit said the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] was ready to join the campaign. [words indistinct] the CPP has nearly (?200) members.

Khieu Kanharit rejected allegations that the CPP had forced people to join the party. He also referred to a report that the SOC people's police withdrew the voting cards of people in Prey Veng Province. He stressed: our authorities have issued voting cards to people and told them not to lose them. This is because we have learned that some political parties have sent out their men to buy voting cards from people. We still do not know their reasons for doing so.

Khieu Kanharit said if any SOC policeman had really committed such an act, the people should report the case to provincial authorities for action.

Concerning the arrangement of candidates for legislative elections, Khieu Kanharit said the CPP has made all preparations. He added that lately some political parties had been dividing the people by categorizing their members into three groups, namely those living abroad, those living along the border, and (?newcomers). Due to this division, the political parties have been unable to get the complete number of candidates for the elections. They have also requested UNTAC not to reveal this matter to the public.

On relations among various political parties, Khieu Kanharit said the CPP still has good relations with most of the political parties taking part in the elections. [words indistinct] after the elections.

Khieu Kanharit expected the CPP to get more votes because 57 percent of the registered voters were CPP members.

On whether the CPP will field a candidate if His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk does not stand in the presidential elections, Khieu Kanharit said until now they still hope the prince will stand for the elections and still regard his role as very important to national reconciliation.

Answering a question on (?racial conflict) between Vietnamese and Cambodian peoples which is said to have worsened, Khieu Kanharit said: an important factor is that some political parties have tried to turn this matter into a political problem. But in fact, the Cambodian people still have good feelings towards them and do not discriminate against Vietnamese. However, everything that had happened has been caused by some (?persons) who think that as patriots, they should incite these racial issues.

At the same time, Gen. Phan Thai informed the journalists about this week's military situation. He said that 200 to 300 troops of the Khmer Rouge's 616th Division launched an offensive in Stoung District of Kompong Thom Province. But by now, some of our positions which were invaded by the Khmer Rouge have been retaken by the SOC Armed Forces through the use of their right to self-defense.

Gen. Pan Thai also said that during the week, the Khmer Rouge fired several rounds of artillery shells into Cambodian People's Armed Forces positions in Svay Rieng, Botum, and L'ak villages. They also sent infantrymen to attack these localities. Moreover, they fired artillery shells into Stoung District seat, causing the people to flee to the provincial seat. A total of 1,717 refugees from 356 families fled Dararei Slap to Sanko.

Indonesia

German Chancellor Arrives in Jakarta 24 Feb

BK2402071593 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 24 Feb 93

[Text] President Suharto will hold talks with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl at Merdeka Palace in Jakarta this evening. The two heads of government will be accompanied by senior government officials during the talks. The German chancellor arrived by a special plane at Halim Perdanakusuma Airport in Jakarta at 1115 West Indonesian Standard Time [0415 GMT] this morning. The German guest was greeted at the aiport by Foreign Minister Ali Alatas and Defense and Security Minister Benny Murdani. During the three-day working visit to Indonesia, Chancellor Helmut Kohl is also scheduled to visit the Tapos Cattle Ranch in Bogor and hold talks with Indonesian businessmen.

Official: No Impact on Inflation From New Bank Notes

BK2302010093 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 23 Feb 93

[Text] Central Bank Governor Adrianus Mooy has urged the general public to enhance their awareness of monetary affairs in order to avoid a misunderstanding. Speaking during a press conference in Jakarta yesterday evening, the Central Bank governor said that the issuance and circulation of new bank notes will not affect the amount of money in circulation or the level of inflation. New bank notes of a 50,000 rupiah-denomination will be issued to supplement the existing denominations, thus giving the general public more choice.

Suharto Meets Kuwaiti Emissary 24 Feb

BK2402081693 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0700 GMT 24 Feb 93

[Text] President Suharto received Dr. Ahmad 'Abdallah al-Rab'i, special envoy of the Kuwaiti amir and concurrently minister of education and higher education, at Merdeka Palace in Jakarta this morning. Foreign Minister Ali Alatas, who accompanied the Kuwaiti amir's special envoy, told newsmen that Kuwait appreciated Indonesia's current aid and support. Kuwait hopes for continued support because Kuwait is facing problems like the continued detention of 670 Kuwaiti prisoners of war in Iraq. According to Minister Ali Alatas, President Suharto pledged to meet the Kuwaiti request. The president said that Indonesia would do all within its power to support Kuwait's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity [words indistinct].

Laos

National Assembly To Continue Session 24 Feb

BK2402021493 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 24 Feb 93

[Excerpts] The inaugural session of the Third National Assembly, which was opened at the main meeting hall of the National Assembly in Vientiane on 20 February with the participation of all 85 members of the National Assembly from throughout the country, will continue for the fourth day today. In today's session, the delegates will further study, in depth, for discussion and endorsement the report on the implementation of the socioeconomic development plan in 1992, the draft socioeconomic development plan for the subsequent years, the report on the implementation of the budget plan in 1992, and the 1992-93 budget plan as presented to the session by representatives of the government.

Yesterday, the third day of the session, the delegates joined in expressing views in a democratic manner on the significant documents of the government. [passage omitted]

All those National Assembly members who contributed views during yesterday's session praised and hailed the government organizations for their achievements in correctly putting into actual practice the party's socioeconomic development plan in conformity with the specific points of each locality and each rural, remote area. As a result of the correct implementation of the plan, they noted, tranquillity and stability have been maintained in the country, the socioeconomic establishments have been expanded, and the production work of the people as well as the businesses of various economic sectors have been appropriately carried out in accordance with the adopted direction. In addition, work in the educational, public health, cultural, and social fields has been consolidated with new qualities.

During yesterday's session, the delegates also pointed out certain remaining problems concerning the implementation of the adopted plans, problems which, they said, have arisen from objective and subjective criteria of particular sections, branches, and localities. In addition, many delegates raised proposals to the government on many issues concerning investments in certain sectors focusing on different specific points and difficulties.

24 Feb Morning Session Reported

BK2402095193 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0500 GMT 24 Feb 93

[Text] The inaugural meeting of the Third National Assembly entered its fourth day this morning under the chairmanship of Saman Vi-gnaket, chairman of ther Third National Assembly. All 85 members of the National Assembly continued to give views on the 1992 socioeconomic development report and on future socieconomic development plans as well as the execution of the 1992 budget and the 1992-1993 budget plan, which had earlier been presented to the meeting by a government representative.

The National Assembly delegates who gave their views at this morning's session were Khamtan Keo-gnotsan from Phong Saly Province, Sithat Inthivong from Attopeu Province, Khambou Sounisai from Sekong Province, Dr. Somphavan Inthavong and Mrs. Onchan Thammavong from Vientiane Municipality, and Maisouk Saisompheng from Houa Phan Province.

In expressing their views, in addition to acclaiming the achievements reported to the meeting by the government, that showed the rate of the development and expansion of socioeconomic development in 1992, each delegate also proposed and questioned the ministers concerned. Regarding the procedure, Bouathong, minister of communications, transport, posts, and construction, answered the queries of some delegates on the construction and development of highways, such as Highway No. 6 in Houa Phan Province, roads linking four southern provinces—Champassak, Saravanew, Sekong, and Attopeu Province; and roads in the northern provinces of Phong Saly, Bokeo, Luang Namtha, Sayaboury, and other places. The delegates also touched on matters regarding the improvement and expansion of airstrips, communications and postal work. With regard to this, the minister concerned tried to answer all the delegates' questions, assuring them that the airfields in Houa Phan, Phong Saly, Oudomsai, and other provinces will be improved. As for the communications network, from now to the year 2000, every province and distrist must be provided with modern telephone systems.

After that, Soulivong Dalavong, minister of industry and handicrafts, answered two questions asked by delegates, namely the linkage between agriculture and the production of consumer goods to meet the people's needs. He pointed out the need to expand electrification programs into the countryside.

At the same time, Khamsai Souphanouvong, minister of finance, also answered delegates questions on budget and finance for 1993. With regard to this, the minister pointed out the conflict between revenue and expenditure. He also touched on society's requirements and certain measures to rectify these problems by relying on the strength of each locality. This is in order to generate revenue to balance expenditure and gradually improve the living conditions of cadres and people. In addition, he also discussed various measures to stabilize finance work.

Philippines

Ramos Orders U.S. Trade Accords Restructured

HK2402040093 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 24 Feb 93 p 5

[Text] President Ramos yesterday ordered the restructuring of bilateral trade agreements with the United States, with special focus on textiles. BUSINESS WORLD learned that the President made the order after a briefing from the Department of Trade and Industry [DTI] on the effects of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). The Department of Trade and Industry noted that there are areas where the Philippines can compete with the NAFTA in force while there are also areas where it cannot possibly compete.

A comparison of the landed cost (U.S. port) for certain apparel indicates that Mexico, a third member in the three-country trade group which includes the U.S. and Canada, will be highly competitive in such low value apparel as knits and denims. The Philippines, therefore, must restructure its bilateral textile agreement with the U.S. towards an increase in the quota for high value categories where it will be more competitive. The DTI noted that U.S. apparel makers and high-cost Asian producers are more vulnerable to Mexican competition than the Philippines in these categories. The Philippines also has a much lower cost of production for luggage, bags and handbags and footwear than Mexico. For TV receivers and dress gloves, the Philippines is a "niche" supplier, DTI said.

The sugar situation, on the other hand, is uncertain, as there is controversy as to whether Mexico can become a net surplus producer or not. "It bears watching with the objective being the preservation of the historical share of the Philippines in the U.S. sugar market should Mexico attain that status," the department report said. It also said it will be crucial that the Generalized System of Preference (GSP) program be extended by the U.S. Congress beyond its expiration date of July 1, 1993. Around 25% of Philippine exports that enter the U.S. are free of duty because of GSP.

The DTI also said NAFTA's impact on foreign investments in the Philippines will be mainly on the apparel industry. It noted that the elimination of tariffs will become a major attraction to investors. But, it added, "it is the liberalization of Mexico's foreign investment regime and the expected economic boom it will experience that will provide the greatest incentives for foreign investors to choose Mexico over the Philippines."

The President directed the DTI to continue monitoring the developments in NAFTA and to liaise with the U.S.

and other foreign suppliers to preserve existing Philippine privileges. He also directed the DTI secretary to ensure the "competitiveness of Philippine exports" against products coming from Mexico.

The DTI noted that the centerpiece of NAFTA is the elimination of tariff duties between its three member countries. But, since because Mexico is "similarly endowed as the Philippines in terms of relatively low labor cost, there is concern that Mexican products may displace Philippine products in the U.S. market because, by paying no tariff duties, Mexican suppliers may be able to offer lower prices for their products."

DTI said that 47% of Mexico's exports to the U.S. are under the "maquilodora" program where duty is paid on the value added to the assembly of U.S. inputs into the finished products. This averages 2%. Another 27%, the DTI report added, is entered free of duty because the duty is either zero to begin with or is GSP-free. "In all, the average tariff on Mexican exports to the U.S. is already a low 4%," the report said, concluding that NAFTA therefore, "will not result in a dramatic drop in U.S. duties on Mexican imports." In sensitive products like apparel, footwear, and luggage and bags, the elimination of tariffs will be phased over a five to ten year period.

PRC Envoy Stresses Stronger Economic, Trade Ties

HK1902124293 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 19 Feb 93 p 9

[Text] China is ready to expand ties with the Philippines under President Ramos, even as it assured that it will "accelerate" the pace of its market reforms and remain open to its neighbors. The Chinese ambassador to the Philippines, Huang Guifang, told the Rotary Club of Manila yesterday: "We wish to explore all possibilities for further cooperation with the Ramos government on the basis of equality and mutual benefit."

Specifically he expressed Beijing's preference for stronger "economic and trade relations" at a time when Filipino and Chinese officials are trying to correct trade imbalance between their two countries. Huang took note of encouraging signs from the Ramos government, such as his eagerness to visit China and his public statements that he wished to have "friendly ties" with that country. President Ramos is due to visit China in late April, although the date has yet to be announced officially.

Huang said the volume of Philippine-China trade reached $365 million in 1992, representing an 18 increase over 1991. The Philippines has been extremely concerned with its trade deficit with China, which as of April 1992 stood at $30.64 million in Beijing's favor. The figure is down from $175 million in 1988, as the Philippines instituted a trade-balancing program. That scheme is likely to be lifted by Manila soon, because foreign affairs officials believe it hold back trade.

For his part, Huang made a pitch for Philippine exports to China, saying that in his countrymen could "get coconut, plywood, coffee, banana and other products." He also said Filipinos were known for their technical and service abilities. "It is said that where there is a five-star hotel in China, there are Filipinos."

China, whose growth rate is 12% in 1991, would continue to pursue peaceful ties with its neighbors, and Huang said it would "accelerate" its process of opening up to the world. "A lesson we learned from history is that there is nothing gained from shutting (our) doors to the world," he remarked. "We are confident that China will make greater achievements (in the future). A stable and economically prosperous China is not only in the fundamental interest of China but (is) an important factor for peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific and the world as a whole," Huang explained.

Asked after his speech on reports from Taiwan that President Ramos would be visiting that island nation sometime this year, Huang remarked that reports from the Taiwanese news agency could not be believed. If such reports were true, Huang said that a visit by the President of a country with which Beijing has diplomatic ties would not sit well with China, because "Taiwan is part of China and it can't become an independent political entity." Asked about a $50 million loan from Taiwan for Subic, Huang reiterated that China policy was that "we understand that the Philippines needs the economic support from Taiwan" as long as ties were not official.

Secretary Sees AFTA Boosting Exports

HK2402040493 Quezon City MALAYA in English 24 Feb 93 p 9

[Text] The Philippines exports stand to gain the most when tariffs are removed within the ASEAN region in line with the implementation of the ASEAN Free Trade Agreement [AFTA], Trade and Industry Sec. Rizalino Navarro said yesterday.

Speaking at the Euromoney Conference, Navarro said according to estimates made by Singaporean economists intra-ASEAN trade would get a 14.7 percent boost once tariffs are lifted.

Of this increase, Navarro said Philippine exports stand to gain the highest increase at 19.5 percent, followed by Thailand at 18.9 percent, Singapore, 14.9 percent, Indonesia, 14.5 percent and Malaysia, 12.3 percent.

He said that despite the Preferential Trading Agreement [PTA] of 1977 put up to enhance trade cooperation within ASEAN there has been "in fact little intraregional trade that the region can boast."

Navarro pointed out that even if the PTA listed 16,000 items as of December, 1991 the rates utilization has been very low.

In 1989, he said, of the total imports of the original five ASEAN countries from the rest of the world estimated at

$120 billion to $130 billion. [sentence as published] Of this amount, $23 billion fell under intra-ASEAN trading or a 20 percent share, he said.

Navarro added that intra-ASEAN imports under the PTA scheme reached only $578 million or around 2.5 percent of the total. Of this amount the Philippine share is 5.3 percent or $30.7 million.

"The reason for this dismal record is that the four most populous ASEAN countries are producing similar products," he said, adding that PTA items are not only noncompetitive but also irrelevant like snow plows and snow mobiles.

AFTA, he said, will also provide alternative markets for RP [Republic of the Philippines] exports which have been overdependent on the U.S. and Japan markets. It will also open markets for nontraditional exports.

"The ASEAN market through CEPT [Common Effective Preferential Service]/AFTA will provide a diversification option to offset the Philippine overdependence on two markets (the U.S. and Japan) and two major export products (garments and semiconductors)," he said.

While acknowledging arguments against entering a borderless trading system, Navarro pointed out that the advantages of a free trade agreement far outweighs its disadvantages.

"AFTA must be viewed as a dynamic process of flows and transfers in financial capital, technology, and physical and human resources that can mutually benefit its participating economies," he said.

Government Hopes New Taxes Will Raise Revenues

HK2302044093 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 23 Feb 93 p 9

[Report by Gil C. Cabacungan]

[Text] Finance Secretary Ramon R. del Rosario Jr. said yesterday the Ramos administration hopes to generate P22 billion [Philippine pesos] in additional revenues this year through the enactment of several tax bills and revenue-enhancing measures.

He said the government expects to realize P12 billion in additional income from the passage of new tax bills pending in Congress and at least P10 billion from measures to be initiated by the executive branch.

He emphasized the need to further strengthen government revenue efforts, saying the requirements of development are "just too large."

Among the revenue measures in Congress that are expected to be passed are: The expansion of value added tax (VAT); implementation of exclusive criminal tax courts; compromise bill on taxes and some measure on alcoholic beverages; and the withholding tax for VAT on government contracts.

He said "these are the priority measures which they have agreed with leaders of Congress that are of the utmost to government efforts to raise revenues."

Del Rosario said that the expansion of VAT coverage, which includes commercial service, has "huge revenue potential" and will improve the structure of indirect taxation.

On tax enhancement measures that will be mandated by the President, Del Rosario said the government has embarked on a comprehensive computerization program for the BIR [Bureau of Internal Revenue] and BOC [Bureau of Customs] and strengthening of rules against tax evasion. The BIR will also implement the simplified net income tax scheme (SNITS) which would limit deductions allowed to nonfixed income earners.

Del Rosario said the government will also strip off subsidies given for public services, such as electricity and water, to prevent wasteful use of those publicly-produced goods and ensure the financial viability of government corporations.

He said that the government is bent on auctioning off not only its losing and nonperforming assets but also its "crown jewels" (e.g. Petron and National Steel Corp.) which are expected to bring in P6 billion in additional earnings for the government this year.

The International Monetary Fund [IMF] had earlier urged the government to make sure that its revenues keep up with its spending this year to keep the deficit within manageable levels. The IMF said the revenue measures should be cited on soon before talks resume in April.

To complement its revenue raising program Del Rosario said the government is eyeing to implement substantial cutbacks on its spending by focusing more on quality investments. "Fiscal profligacy cannot be tolerated because government resources are not limited."

While the government will continue to spend more on infrastructure and basic social services, Del Rosario said they will narrow down their spending on projects with the biggest impact on the economy. Furthermore, spending on preventive maintenance will be raised to ensure that the service of existing facilities will be maintained for a longer period.

He said that government will pursue its plan to "streamline the bureaucracy" which he said will not make government less effective, but rather more dynamic in responding to the needs of society.

He said difficult political decisions have to be made to reach their goals of cutting unnecessary spending. "We are prepared to make them because we cannot afford to let the wheels of economic progress get stuck in the mud of political expediency."

Meanwhile, the Ramos administration will push through with its plan to issue more Philippine bonds in the international market despite warnings aired by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that over-reliance on foreign commercial borrowings would lead to a higher budget deficit.

Del Rosario told newsmen yesterday that it remains keen on issuing not only Eurobonds but also Yankee and Samurai bonds next year to shore up government coffers.

Early this month, the Philippines made a successful debut in the voluntary capital market with its $150 million Eurobonds offering which foreign investors described as a complete and unqualified blowout. "This is positive proof that the Philippines is now regarded to be on a more solid, financial footing."

However, IMF resident representative Christopher Browne cautioned the Ramos government about relying heavily on foreign borrowings to finance its budget deficit. "While we are happy with the bond issue, we do not want to see a massive increase in commercial borrowings."

Del Rosario said that the government will heed the IMF's call to exercise more caution in tapping foreign commercial credit lines, but it will not stop in pursuing its plan to issue more Philippine bonds once it gets the necessary credit rating from Standard and Poors and Moody's.

Committee Appointed To Review PNP Resignations

HK2302040193 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 23 Feb 93 pp 1, 10

[Text] A long-expected revamp of the Philippine National Police [PNP] formally got going yesterday when President Ramos formed a nine-man committee to process the retirement papers of 239 senior police officers. The move is also considered a crucial step in professionalizing the police service. In creating the committee, Mr. Ramos said, his administration was "just trying to organize a process by which we can have a little more flexibility in instituting a more professional PNP."

The revamp takes fuller shape when replacements are named for the retired or resigned officers. "Unless there is movement in the PNP ranks, there will be no vacancies," the President stressed. He indicated, however, police generals and colonels with exceptional records might be retained. "The great majority perhaps of those 239 are people that should be retained, especially those that have been, on the record, exceptional in their performance of duty," he told reporters after a four-hour meeting with PNP officials.

Other developments:

—The chairman and commissioners of the National Police Commission "voluntarily and unconditionally" offered to step down to give Mr. Ramos a free hand in saving the police service from its present crisis of confidence.

—Several senators, crossing party lines, defended the President from criticisms against his strategy for police reforms, which Sen. [Senator] Rodolfo Biazon, in a privilege speech, described as unjust.

Mr. Ramos last week called for the courtesy resignations of senior police officers qualified to retire, or those with 20 or more years of service, amid public outcry against unabated crime and police corruption. At least a dozen top police officials have done so, and Mr. Ramos has accepted the resignation of one—Director General Cesar Nazareno, the ousted PNP chief. But the President stressed that "applications for (retirement) are not a sign of guilt, nor an admission of guilt." In Nazareno's case, Mr. Ramos said it was "to his (Nazareno's) credit" that he offered to resign. "Or else, there's no way for those who are still in the service to be promoted."

The President's call for voluntary resignations or retirement presumably took into account some legal obstacles. One is that the tenure of senior police officers is said to be protected by the PNP law.

Aside from creating the nineman committee, the President said he was "ready to certify a package of proposals" to professionalize the PNP, including amending Republic Act 6975, the PNP law. Mr. Ramos named Interior and Local Government Secretary Rafael Alunan III to head the committee. He also named five members—Defense Secretary Renate de Villa; PNP Director Vicente Vinarao, presidential consultant on police affairs; Defense Undersecretary Ernesto Gidaya; retired Brig. Gen. [Brigadier General] Cicero Campos; and PNP Commissioner Edgar Dula Torre. Mr. Ramos said he would announce the three other committee members shortly. He gave the committee seven days to accept applications for voluntary retirement and 45 days to process the same.

The president yesterday reminded members of his Cabinet that they serve at his pleasure. "Whether or not they submit their letters of resignation, and if I feel they should go, then they must go," he aid. Mr. Ramos said, however, he had yet to ask any of his Cabinet officials to resign. "Wala pa naman akong itinatabi a [I have not singled out anyone yet]," he quipped.

The other day, Alunan offered to resign as DILG [Department of Interior and Local Government] secretary and as ex officio chairman of the National Police Commission, but Mr. Ramos said Cabinet members were not covered by his call for resignations. Napolcom's four commissioners, however, offered to quit yesterday. They are Guillermo P. Enriquez Jr., acting vice chairman and executive officer of the police agency; Edgar Dula Torre, Federico S. Comandante and Alexis C. Canonizado. Unlike Alunan, they are not of Cabinet rank, but their terms are fixed under the PNP law. In a resolution, the Napolcom officials said: "We feel that any such reorganization will be incomplete if we, who administer and supervise the PNP, are excluded from the ongoing assessment and scrutiny of the President."

Senators defending the President's moves on police, reforms said he should even call for the resignation of all PNP officers, not just a selected group. "The extent of corruption in the PNP is so widespread that there is basis to even remove everybody," said Sen. Ernesto Maceda. Maceda made the statement while interpellating Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, who warned in a privilege speech that the President might be violating police officers' right to due process by calling for their resignations even before charges against them were filed.

"I ask for justice and for the means of the delivery of justice," said Biazon, a former Armed Forces chief of staff. "I believe the revamp should be done, but it should be done through the institutional process." He said the process being followed by the President was making people suspect that the reorganization was "politically motivated." Mr. Ramos was also attracting dissent from inside the PNP with his call for resignations, Biazon said. "The President is making his officer vulnerable to defiance," he added. "What if the rest of the officers do not submit their resignations?" Biazon's attack on the President's strategy for police reforms was questioned for more than three hours of the Senate's interpellation period.

Thailand

Russians Offer To Sell MiG-29's to Air Force

BK2402023193 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 24 Feb 93 p 1

[Text] The Russian manufacturers of the MiG-29 air-defence fighter have proposed selling the aircraft to the Royal Thai Air Force.

This follows the decision of the Malaysian Government to acquire a first squadron of MiG-29s, and to follow with the purchase of a second squadron if servicing and supply arrangements go according to plan.

The Philippines and South Korea are also considering the aircraft, which represehts the first breakthrough of a major Russian weapons system in the ASEAN market.

The Thai Ambassador to Russia, Kasit Piromya, visited one of the MiG-29 production facilities in Nizhni Novgorod last week, and received detailed briefings on its performance in simulated tests against the US-built F-16.

The chief designer of the MiG-29, Anatoliy Belosvet, told the BANGKOK POST that the F-16 engines perform less well in tropical conditions. He claims that the US aircraft is less manoeuvrable in combat, with a poorer safety record than the MiG 29.

The German Air Force is now operating the F-16 and the MiG-29 in tandem, having taken in the Russian built aircraft from the former East German air force.

The Thai Air Force is already operating the F-16.

As inducement, Russian officials are proposing the sale of MiG-29 and other military equipment in barter exchange for Thai commodities clothing and consumer goods.

Thai officials have responded that while there may be an interest in Bangkok in evaluating the MiG-29 for air force modernisation, for the time being there is likely to be domestic opposition to such a trade.

Military procurement official have bought Soviet-bloc arms in the past, including frigate hulls from China. But there is some reluctance to negotiating a major arms deal directly with Moscow.

This is changing, Thai sources believe, as ASEAN members like Malaysia have evaluated Russian-built systems, like the MiG-29, against its US, British and French competitors, and opted to buy Russian.

The Malaysian sale was almost finalised late last year. But contract signing has been delayed by a domestic political fight in Kuala Lumpur between the Malaysian Prime Minister, Dr Mahathir Mohamad, and the Sultan of Pahang.

The Sultan of Pahang has opposed Prime Minister Mahathir's move to restrict the constitutional prerogatives of Malaysia's nine sultans. In retaliation, the Malaysian cabinet has ordered the Defence Minister Najib Tun Razak, to delay signing the MiG-29 contract until it is redrafted, and a company associated with the Sultan of Pahang excluded from any benefit in the deal.

Malaysia is in line to buy some 30 MiG-29s and six Mi-24 Hind helicopter gunships in the proposed deal, estimated to be worth more than US$500 million.

Under a memorandum of understanding signed between Malaysian Defence Minister Najib Tun Razak and his Indian counterpart Sharad Pawar on February 2, India would provide logistics support including maintenance where necessary and technical expertise.

Thi agreement, which paved the way for conclusion of the sale, was considered essential by Malaysian armed forces chief Yaacob Mohamed Zain.

He described India as the only Asian country which extensively used Russian fighters and had an adequate supply of spare parts.

Analysts noted that a Malaysian purchase would give Moscow a significant foothold in the profitable Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) market for armaments.

They cited a scramble by US and European competitors to convince the Malaysians that their products were better.

Russia To Pay for Rice in Promissory Notes

BK2402032793 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 Feb 93 p B4

[Text] Russia will pay an outstanding debt for rice bought from Thailand several years ago through a special promissory note issue.

Commerce Minister Uthai Pimchaichon said that Russian officials had recently informed him that the Russian Finance Ministry will issue the promissory notes, worth Bt [baht] 425 million (US$17 million) shortly.

If Russia pays for the rice, the Commerce Ministry will continue its negotiations with the Russian government for the sale of a further consignment. It is expected that Thailand will exchange its rice for oil.

Russia is perceived as a potential market for Thai rice, but local exporters are concerned that the country might not have enough money for it.

The Commerce Ministry has also tentatively agreed to sell 400,000 tonnes of 100-per-cent rice to Iran at US$279 a tonne. Uthai said the Thai and Iranian governments were expected to strike the deal soon: "Ninety per cent of the deal has been agreed by both sides," said Uthai.

Iranian buyers have negotiated the same price as it paid in their previous deal. The Commerce Ministry has agreed to a one-year credit temm with a 7.25 per cent interest rate despite Iranian requests for a two-year credit term.

The sale is part of the Chuan administration's move to off-load 900,000 tonnes of stockpiled rice. Deputy Prime Minister Amnuay Wirawan has already expressed optimism that it will soon be sold.

High government rice stocks have resulted in a sharp drop in domestic market prices. Amnuay earlier said that the government was about to complete deals to sell 700,000 tonnes of rice to the Philippines, North Korea, the Netherlands and Hong Kong.

The Thai government is planning to exchange 200,000 tonnes of Thai rice, with the Philippines, for fertilizer. Officials from the two governments will negotiate later this month.

Cabinet Approves Rice Assistance for Somalia

BK2402063893 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 24 Feb 93

[Text] Thailand will be delivering 500 tons of rice to Somalia. The cabinet approved the humanitarian aid to be given in its meeting yesterday. The proposed humanitarian aid was put forward by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Ministry of Commerce has been entrusted to acquire the amount of rice, 500 tons or 5,000 sacks, to be delivered by the Royal Thai Navy. Central funds for contingencies will be used to purchase rice. Transportation expense at 2.5 million baht has been approved for the Royal Thai Navy. The transportation and delivery of rice by the Royal Thai Navy will be done in close coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Working Group Reports International Rice Sales

BK1602031393 Bangkok THE NATION in English 16 Feb 93 p A2

[Text] A government working group responsible for rice exports yesterday reported that there had been orders for more than 500,000 tonnes of Thai rice from the Philippines, China, Iran and two international brokers.

Currently, the government has about one million tonnes of rice in stock. A source said the Philippines plans to trade fertilizer for 200,000 tonnes of Thai rice, while China and Iran would buy the commodity on credit.

The source said the Philippines proposed the barter trade after a recent visit to that country by Deputy Prime Minister Amnuai Wirawan. Amnuai is chairman of the working group.

Minister Urges SRV Cooperation in Rice Trade

BK1302080993 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] Deputy Commerce Minister Phaithun Kaeothong, who was on a visit to Vietnam, has asked Vietnam to cooperate with Thailand in stabilizing rice prices between the two countries. The deputy commerce minister met Vietnam's Deputy Agriculture Minister Ngo Sy Dang and Deputy Trade Minister Le Kim Lang for talks on rice production and exports.

Thailand proposed that both countries exchange information about rice production and markets and force rice brokers to offer high prices for both Thai and Vietnamese rice. Mr. Phaithun also urged Vietnam to reduce rice planting as a way of boosting rice prices. Vietnam said it had to sell rice to the world markets at lower prices than that of Thailand because the country needed foreign currency to buy fertilizers. Mr. Phaithun said he would encourage the Thai private sector to exchange fertilizers for Vietnamese rice so that Vietnam needs not accelerate its rice exports at lower prices to undercut Thai rice trade.

U.S. Sets Deadline for Revising Labor Law

BK2302024193 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 23 Feb 93

[Text] The United States sets a deadline for the Thai Government to put up the amended state enterprise relations law for consideration by the House of Representatives within 15 April this year. Labor Expert Nikhom Chantharawithun says he has met representatives of U.S. labor unions and authorities, who told him that the United States is ready to suspend tax privileges under the Generalized System of Preferences on Thai exports if Thailand does not revise the labor law by the set date.

Mr. Nikhom says if the state enterprise relations group does not accept the amended state enterprise relations prospects by the Department of Labor Welfare and Protection and is unable to push for the consideration of a new labor relations draft bill in the parliament in time, the public will probably point out the group causes damage to Thai exports. The new labor relations bill is being worked out by the House Committee on Labor and Social Security to enable state enterprise workers and employees in the private sector to jointly push for labor movements. Mr. Nikhom also urges state enterprise workers to consider the issue thoroughly, taking into account the present labor situation. He adds that it is difficult to adopt the 1975 Labor Relations Law again.

Army Not Impressed With U.S.-Made Tanks

BK2302015993 Bangkok THE NATION in English 23 Feb 93 pp A1, A2

[Text] Army officials were far from impressed at a firing demonstration yesterday by one of the controversial Stingray light tanks. Two shots fired while the tank was stationary missed completely. The third round, fired while the tank was moving grazed the right side of the target.

Several middle-ranking soldiers from the Saraburi Infantry Centre shook their heads at the results. The army has several times boasted that Stingrays were formidable weapons which could pinpoint their targets while on the run.

The infantry centre demonstration yesterday followed questions about the quality of the tanks after the army earlier admitted that 44 of the 106 Stingrays had developed cracks.

Two tanks participated in yesterday's demonstration, but only one of them fired shells. The other displayed only its speed and manoeuvring ability.

Yesterday's firing demonstration was over a range of about 2,000 metres. The first shot flew over the target and the second fell short.

The centre tested the tanks earlier this month in the wake of questions about their quality. At that time, a committee reported to Army Headquarters that the test yielded "satisfactory" results.

US-based Cadillac Gage, which supplied the tanks, blamed the cracks on the way the army used the tanks. The supplier alleged that Thai soldiers often "high jump" the tanks during war exercises. But on Friday, the army alleged that the problems with the tanks "originated during the manufacturing process".

Army chief Gen Wimon Wongwanit told a meeting of army commanders that from now on his armed forces should buy only weapons that had been widely used and should refrain from purchasing prototypes. Thailand was the first country to order Stingrays.

MP To Visit U.S. To Get Details of Tank Deal

BK2402084793 Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai 24 Feb 93 p 22

[Text] Wutthichai Sanguanwongchai, spokesman of the House Budget Follow-up Committee, said that a group of members of Parliament led by Aram Lowira has submitted a motion to his committee calling for an investigation into the Army's purchase of Stingray tanks because of its reported poor quality. As a result, the committee will ask the Army to submit details of the purchase and to explain the deal to the committee. The committee also agreed to send Aram Lowira to the United States to find out more details about the purchase of Stingray tanks from the producer.

Crackdown on Music Tape Piracy Planned

BK2202111393 Bangkok SIAM POST in Thai 22 Feb 93 p 17, 24

[Text] Phiphat Intharasap, the director general of the Intellectual Property Department, informed "SIAM POST" about the outcome of the tripartite committee meeting to solve violations of EC music tape copyrights. The meeting comprised representatives of the department, International Federation of Phonographic Industries [IFPI], and an EC committee. It set to suppress as targets copyright violators in 11 Bangkok areas; these are in Khaosan Road, Siam Center, Mabunkhrong Center, Amarin Plaza, Bang Lamphu Shopping Center, Pratunam, Chatuchak Park, Victory Monument, Fortune Town, Silom Road from Phatphong to Thaniya Plaza, and in front of Ramkhamhaeng Road.

The tripartite committee settled on the suppression of major producers and whosalers in the 11 areas to reduce distribution to retailers in other parts of the country. This would help them avoid having to crack down on small retailers.

According to Yanyong Phuangrat, the department deputy director general, efforts are being made to accelerate the amendment of several parts of the 1978 copyright law, such as damage assessment, punishment of violators based on the quantity of confiscated materials, and banning the production of tapes where copyrights have been found to have been violated. Certain issues are under consideration, such as whether all confiscated material are to be destroyed or returned to copyright holders because the tapes could be reused.

The law will also be amended to make copyright violation a crime against the state instead of against individuals to further facilitate prosecution. The government must consider protecting the entire intellectual property system so that it is compatible with other relevant laws.

Thianchai Pinwiset, the IFPI director in Thailand, said his agency is satisfied with the Thai Government performance to date. He believed the EC would reach the same conclusion in its April assessment of the Thai suppression results and would not impose sanctions against Thai exports by removing GSP or by other measures. In any event, it is not certain at this time what criteria the EC will use in its assessment.

In a recent interview, Deputy Commerce Minister Churin Laksanawisit in a request to IFPI, has asked foreign tape producers not to settle their cases out-of-court after instituting legal action against violators in Thai courts, as this itself amounted to indirect copyright violation.

Police Arrest Producer of Pirated Tapes

BK2402030793 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 Feb 93 pp B1, B2

[Text] Residents on the Tawirot Housing Estate in Nonthaburi province would never have guessed that a multi-million baht business was going on under their noses—everyday one of their neighbours was busy pirating thousands of music tapes.

All was revealed yesterday when 15 police from the Economic Crime Suppression and the Crime Suppression Divisions raided the house and uncovered 1,500 master tapes, more than 600 compact discs, about 5,000 cassettes and 100 audio machines.

According to police, it is unlikely they [the audio machines] were used for pleasure purposes, but as a means of making big money.

Based on what was found, the police have charged the householder, Kriang Piyawathasin, with producing fake tapes under the "Eagle" brand.

Following two months of close scrutiny, the Commerce Ministry special task force, the Bangkok Branch of International Federation of the Phonographic Industry (IFPI) and the Police Department entered the house once the police had raided it.

The tapes are of Western songs that were popular with Thai music lovers a couple of years ago.

Kriang said that he intended to quit the business at the end of this month and his company was collecting old tapes and re-recording on them, to use up stocks.

The house is believed to have produced up to 100,000 pirated tapes a day, and the business appeared to have been going on for 25 years, said a senior IFPI officer.

Officials said yesterday's raid was the third major move made by police since the Commerce Ministry set up a special task force to suppress pirated tapes.

The moves represent part of the Commerce Ministry's efforts to show the major world economies the Thai government is serious about tackling the piracy issue.

The Thai government has recently been under strong pressure from the United States and the European Community, which have both threatened to take retaliatory trade measures against Thai exports if Thailand made no efforts to eliminate music piracy.

In Europe last year, the IFPI filed a petition urging the EC commission to deny customs preferences to certain Thai products.

IFPI claimed the unauthorized duplication of foreign sound recordings occurred on a massive scale, resulting in the authorized versions of foreign recordings taking, at best, only 10 per cent market share.

The petition by the EC sound recording industry was the second: its US counterpart filed a similar complaint with the USTR which led to the current investigations.

The US Trade Representative is scheduled to announce whether Thailand will continue to be listed on its priority foreign countries (PFC) watchlist in April.

Thanit Luangsinrot, IFPI deputy director, said that Krieng was arrested three years ago and, at the time, said he would stop producing pirated tapes.

He admitted that two years ago IFPI officers had asked him to stop producing fake tapes within six months and acquire a licence if he wished to make bona fide tapes.

Kriang said that he had talked with major music recording companies—including Polygram, CBS, WEA and EMI—about acquiring a licence but the copyright owners set high prices he could not afford.

The production cost of a fake tape is about Bt [baht] 14, compared with Bt60 for legitimate ones.

Legitimate tape producers are now selling tapes at Bt80-Bt90: fakes sell at Bt30-35.

Businessmen Urged To Follow Cambodian Sanctions

BK2202025293 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Text] Commerce Minister Uthai Phimchaichon has called on Thai business people to cooperate with the government in compliance with the United Nations resolution on Cambodia. The call was made on Saturday when the minister presided over a seminar on guidelines of cooperation in opening a joint Thai-Cambodian economic zone in Trat Province. The seminar was attended by 400 Thai and foreign participants. It was organized by the Trat Commercial Office, the Trat Chamber of Commerce, Bankers Club, and the administration of Koh Kong Island.

The commerce minister said the government has a policy of promoting international trade. However, Thailand now has to cooperate with the United Nations in putting pressure on the Khmer Rouge. He said if the country does not comply with the UN resolution on trade sanctions against the Khmer Rouge, the country's overall economy will be affected. The minister said Cambodia is not the only country Thailand has traded with. At present, Thailand's trade with various countries stands at 800 billion baht. For this reason, he said business people must be aware of the country's overall image in the eyes of international community.

Deputy House Speaker Views Cambodian Elections

BK2202144293 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Text] Wan Mohamed Nomatha, first deputy speaker of the House of Representatives, granted an interview at the Thai Embassy in Phnom Penh today during which he reported on his visit to Cambodia from 19 to 22 February.

He said he exchanged views with the Cambodians on the general election scheduled to be held in May this year in Cambodia. Several Cambodian leaders were visiting their people in rural areas. He noted that, as there have been no elections in Cambodia for a long time, the people are not very enthusiastic about the elections and the atmosphere is not very exciting. Anyway, he learned that a formal election campaign will begin in April, and only then can we judge to what extent the Cambodian people are keen about the elections.

The deputy House speaker said that whenever he had a chance he stressed to the Cambodian leaders that national problems can only be solved through elections under the democratic system. He cited Thailand as an example, telling them that Thailand has gone through many elections, and national problems have been solved little by little in peace. He also told the Cambodians that he believes a nation can achieve prosperity and development only through elections.

PRC Trade Delegation Arrives for Visit

BK2302092993 Bangkok XING XIAN RIBAO in Chinese 22 Feb 93 p 7

[Excerpts] At the invitation of the Thai-Chinese Trade and Investment Promotion Committee, an 11-member delegation of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade led by Chairman Zheng Hongye arrived in Thailand on 19 February from Kuala Lumpur for a seven-day visit to Thailand to observe the tourism industry. The delegation boarded another plane to Chiang Mai Province shortly after its arrival. Li Jinghe, chairman of the Thai-Chinese Trade and Investment Promotion Committee, and two other senior officials of the committee welcomed the delegation at the airport and accompanied the guests to Chiang Mai Province. Chinese Embassy Commercial Counsellor Chen Weiqiao and Commercial Counsellor Zheng Chao were also present at the airport to welcome the delegation. [passage omitted]

In Chiang Mai, the delegation will call on the Chiang Mai governor, the Chinese Consul General in Chiang Mai Zhang Zhiguo, and leaders of the Chiang Mai Chamber of Commerce. The delegation is scheduled to return to Bangkok on 21 February. While in Bangkok, the delegation will pay a courtesy call on Deputy Prime Minister Suphachai Phanitchapak and Chinese Ambassador Li Shichun and will also attend banquets to be held by the Thai-Chinese Trade and Investment Promotion Committee and by the Thai-Chinese International Bank. They will also visit the Rose Garden and the Charoen Phokkhaphan Group of Companies before returning home on 25 February.

Ho Chi Minh City Seen as Bangkok Business Rival

BK2202031993 Bangkok THE NATION in English 22 Feb 93 p B4

[Text] While visitors have to witness Bangkok's frenetic business activities from car windows as they choke and swelter in traffic jams, they can experience the phenomenal growth of Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh City in an altogether more relaxed manner.

That's not all. Ho Chi Minh City is fast emerging as a serious rival to Bangkok in the Southeast Asian regional business centre stakes.

Its becoming increasingly likely that overseas investors will move to Vietnam in preference to Thailand unless the Kingdom develops its trade and investment structure to offer the kind of incentives available elsewhere.

Vietnam, especially the Ho Chi Minh City area, is now attracting investors from Taiwan, Hong Kong, Japan, Australia and France. US investors are expected to be plentiful too, once the trade embargo is lifted.

A group of Thai businessmen who visited Ho Chi Minh City earlier this month, all came to the same conclusion: "Ho Chi Minh is a force to be reckoned with."

The changes from just six months earlier were phenomenal, they said, adding that they noticed more telecommunications facilities and increased activity levels, while the river port was bustling with commercial vessels.

"Ho Chi Minh port only had a few vessels six months ago, but that's increased to 30 or 40 today covering a distance of five kilometres," pointed out a Thai timber trader.

Booking in advance is the only way to guarantee a room at the city's lone five-star hotel. This all points to the fact that a popular notion—it will take Vietnam 20 or 30 years to catch Thailand—is a myth. It won't.

Watthana Chantharat, president of First World Export Co, said the high growth levels being experienced in Ho Chi Minh City will have a positive impact and spread development to other provinces.

Apart from being Vietnam's main port, it is also where production raw materials enter the country.

"Ho Chi Minh may take just five to 10 years to catch Bangkok. It will surge ahead if we don't do anything," he said.

Bunchai Samwitwanitcha, managing director of Satipap Co (Hua Peng 1958) Co, said Vietnam was an attractive investment location.

Burmese Free 4 of 9 Hostages, Demand Ransom

BK2402024193 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 24 Feb 93 p 2

[Text] Tak—Burmese troops have released four of nine Thai villagers seized by them in retaliation for the capture of two Burmese soldiers, but are still holding the other five despite the ransom money paid by their relatives.

Border officials confirmed the four were released here on Monday.

But they said the Burmese troops were demanding two field radios and 6,000 baht for the release of the rest of the hostages captured on Sunday while cutting wood on the Burmese side of the border.

It was reported the relatives of the five still being held had already paid the ransom demanded by the Burmese troops.

But the Burmese said they would not release the five until Thai authorities free the two captured Burmese soldiers.

The officials said the matter had been referred from the provincial level to the Interior Ministry in Bangkok.

The two Burmese soldiers were arrested on the Thai side on Saturday after Thai police found they were carrying a hand grenade.

Burmese troops are allowed to cross into Thai territory at various points to buy supplies but on the Thai Army's condition that they do not carry arms.

Last October saw a diplomatic row between Bangkok and Rangoon after the seizure of 10 local Thai officials by Burmese troops. The 10 had crossed into Burma in connection with negotiations for the release of Thai villagers caught while fishing on a border river.

The captives were released only after a week of high-level negotiations during which the Thais were taken to Rangoon.

Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan returned to Bangkok on Sunday from Rangoon where he attended a Joint Border Commission meeting to solve frontier problems.

New Zealand Minister Visits, Views SE Asia Trade

BK1902034593 Bangkok THE NATION in English 19 Feb 93 p B2

[Text] With its traditional markets in Europe disappearing and its trade with East Asia growing enormously in the last decade, New Zealand is shifting its economic orientation and commitment to the Asia-Pacific region.

As part of his country's effort to boost trade linkages with East and Southeast Asia, Trade Minister Philip Burdon yesterday led a business delegation of more than 150 of New Zealand's top executives to Bangkok for a seminar focusing on important bilateral trade issues, including workshops on education, food technology, forestry, manufacturing and tourism.

A country of 3.3 million people with abundant natural resources, New Zealand in the past was tied heavily to Europe, exporting such natural resource products as forestry, dairy and red meat to the European Community.

But in recent years the EC has constructed import barriers and aided its import-competing industries so much that countries like New Zealand have been forced to aim their exports elsewhere. Such new export destinations have emerged in the Asia-Pacific.

Realizing this fundamental shift in trade and investment patterns, New Zealand officials like Burdon have flocked to East Asia countries in search of new markets and opportunities for promoting further trade and investment.

Following the workshops at The Dusit Thani Hotel yesterday, New Zealand business executives and their Thai counterparts held private discussion to build up private sector ties. A Thai business delegation will visit New Zealand in May to follow up the potential deals talked about during the last two days.

"New Zealand-Thai trade has gone up more than 400 per cent during the past five years. Our forestry, farm and fisheries products complement what Thailand needs," Burdon told THE NATION in an interview. "So we are conducting this trade and investment seminar to devote the attention of both countries to undeveloped business opportunities.

"In trade terms, New Zealand is being increasingly excluded from traditional markets in the European Community," he said, referring to the resource-based products that have had to compete with the EC's substitutes. "But Asia will never substitute its natural resource products."

Don Curtin, chief economist of the Bank of New Zealand, attributed his country's newly defined economic orientation to changing world trade relations, not least Britain's commitment to the EC which left New Zealand to go it alone in the Asia-Pacific.

Notwithstanding the EC integration, Curtin pointed out that New Zealand's trade patterns have gravitated dramatically toward the East Asian region, especially Japan and South Korea, which are respectively the second and fifth largest markets for New Zealand exports.

These changing trade patterns are reinforced by the effective management of the New Zealand economy, which underwent several stages of reforms in recent years. Its tax system was simplified, exchange controls lifted, tariffs reduced and a variety of nontariff barriers eliminated.

These measures, along with New Zealand's anti-inflationary policies, are conducive for foreign investment, according to Curtin. New Zealand's inflation has been kept below two per cent annually, ranking it one of the three lowest among the industrialized countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

While it is decidedly Asian in its trade and investment outlook. New Zealand's first preference is a multilateral trading system based on a successful conclusion of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade agreement.

But in the event that GATT fails, Curtin suggested an alternative trading arrangement should be set up in this region. This view was shared by Burdon, who said the future of New Zealand lies in Asia.

"If we have to sign up in a trade bloc with somebody in the world, the majority of New Zealanders would sign up with this part of the world," Curtin said.

New Australian Satellite TV Service Viewed

BK1902040993 Bangkok THE NATION in English 19 Feb 93 p B2

[Text] The Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) officially started broadcasting its Australia Television International (ATVI) satellite television service to Southeast Asia and the Pacific region yesterday.

Australia's Prime Minister Paul Keating, speaking on the inaugural live telecast, said: "The programmes are aimed at introducing Australia to the area so that it will be able to play a more significant role in the Asia-Pacific region."

Further comment from ABC management were unavailable as none of its management were present at the inauguration ceremony at the Australian Embassy in Bangkok yesterday.

State-funded ABC has set up an office to manage the satellite broadcasting project at Sydney's Gore Hill TV complex. The satellite programmes are broadcast via the Indonesian Palapa B2P satellite.

ATVI will feature news, documentaries, entertainment, sports and have a one-hour news bulletin and hourly updates. The service is free.

Audiences in Thailand can receive the programmes between 3 and 11 p.m. daily, with a 2-3.6-meter dish antenna.

Evan Williams, ABC representative and Indochina correspondent, said the ATVI will not compete with Hong Kong-based Star TV's satellite programmes but aim to bring the Southeast Asian and Pacific people together.

The Australian Government has recently funded the project with Bt97 million and the ABC has invested an additional Bt198 million. The ATVI programmes are planned to be self-funding after the first year of service.

According to ABC's communique, the programmes cover Burma, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Taiwan, Hong Kong, South China, and the Australian Continent.

Williams said the ATVI programmes will be advertisement-free but there will be breaks for introducing sponsors—but not their products.

ATVI plans to acquire sponsorship from business, government and the public sector under sponsorship guidelines promulgated by the ABC board. It is expected that daily programmes will be published in local English newspapers.

According to ABC, revenue will be earned by re-selling feature programmes to local channels for re-broadcast to those who cannot receive the satellite service; by subleasing the transponder which also has the capacity for separate audio services; and by sponsorship.

A marketing manager is being appointed to explore and maximise the possibilities of the finance sources. The service will initially be free to receive just like Star TV at present (in Thailand), but after some time viewers might have to pay a subscriber fee for it.

Initially, ATVI's programmes will be the same as those telecast over Australia. But it has a plan to produce programmes designed to suit the audiences in this particular region later on.

The number of private dishes varies considerably in different parts of the region but there is a growing number of affluent and middle-class viewers seeking sophisticated TV services with a regional perspective in a language which is, for many, the lingua franca, according to ABC.

According to REUTERS, the ABC was described by Australia's Northern Territory officials as having poor reputation in the Southeast Asian region.

The satellite service was launched with great fanfare on Wednesday in Darwin, Australia's northernmost city. But the Territory's Chief Minister Marshall Perron and other local government politicians pointedly boycotted the ceremony.

"The ABC has a dreadful profile in Asia. We've worked very hard to build up a positive profile for the territory and we don't want to jeopardise that by endorsing the ABC," the Territory's Asian Relations Minister Shane Stone told reporters on yesterday.

The Northern Territory Government was not satisfied that the ABC, subsidised by the federal governmment, would present itself properly in Asia, a government spokesman told REUTERS from Darwin.

"However, should the new television service prove itself to be reputable, the (Territory) government would be quite prepared to reassess its position," he added.

Military Seen Trying To Regain Influence

BK2002035793 Bangkok THE NATION in English 20 Feb 93 p A6

[Article by William Callahan: "Armed Forces Face Identity Crisis", with the following introduction: "The debate over the visit of the Dalai Lama to Thailand may have revealed a growing concern by the military that its role in national politics is waning."]

[Text] The Dalai Lama arrived in Bangkok Tuesday amidst confusion not only about where he would stay and whom he would talk to, but also a maelstrom of shifting political issues.

Last week, discussion of the "Dalai Lama visa issue" was framed in terms of foreign affairs and Thai sovereignty, but things changed drastically on Sunday when Army chief Wimon Wongwanit joined the fray to criticize publicly the Chuan government's decision.

The Army commander's negative comments dramatically changed the focus of the dispute from foreign affairs to domestic politics.

Prachuap Chaisan, the secretary general of the Chat Phatthana opposition party, expressed this shift of issues as a "confrontation between the civilian government and the military leaders."

Whereas last week it was between Thai sovereignty and Chinese influence, the debate on the airwaves and in the newspaper columns this week was between the "guardians of national security" and the "crusaders for human rights."

Simply put, Gen Wimon and Air Force chief ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kan Phimanthip and their supporters in the opposition parties all feel that the Dalai Lama is bringing more trouble than benefit to Thailand. Gen Wimon feared that Thai national security was threatened because the Dalai Lama's participation in the campaign by Nobel laureates to pressure Burma's State Law and Order Commission (SLORC) to release fellow laureate Aung San Suu Kyi was putting unnecessary strain on relations with Burma and China.

Gen Wimon said that the peace mission actually could "bring enemies down on our home" and thus was actually like "bringing war into our own home."

The peace mission supporters, on the other hand, reject such warlike talk, and say that human rights and democracy are a universal concern. The Nobel laureates, including the Dalai Lama, thus disputed that they were interfering in the internal affairs of another country. The Dalai Lama said "humanity knows no boundaries," and compared the peace mission with international relief missions sent to aid countries in the face of floods, earthquakes and famine.

And of course Thailand and democracy benefited from the international outrage that was instrumental in forcing Gen Suchinda Khraprayun to resign in May 1992. This lesson is not lost by the present participants in the debate; the political parties that supported Suchinda's smashing of human rights are the same as those who are criticizing the Dalai Lama.

Prachuap had a good point when he commented that the government should "take care of Thailand's human rights violations." Indeed, the Army should have respected the right to free information and allowed the Dalai Lama to speak as scheduled on Channel 5.

Defending the Army's right to voice its opinion and censor others, Deputy Defence Minister Sombat Rotphothong said: "The military is focused on national stability while the government is concerned about the human rights angle."

Looking at the peace mission according to the division between national security and human rights is important, but it also obscures other crucial issues put into play this week.

Military experts doubt that the Nobel laureates' peace mission will result in troubles along the Thai-Burmese border, as some have predicted. But even if we are to take the military's concerns seriously, in many ways Thailand's long-term national security is better served by the Nobel laureates' mission than Thailand's "constructive engagement" policy with Rangoon.

To put it another way, perhaps supporting human rights in Burma is the best strategy to ensure Thailand's national security.

If the military and the opposition parties are truly concerned with the welfare of Thais along the border and the stability of economic trade, then they should not support SLORC.

The military is correct when it states that Thai national security would be better served by a stable government in Rangoon. But they miss the point when they assume that military governments are more stable than democratic ones. Although there is a nostalgia in Thailand for a militarized stability a la Field Marshal Sarit [Thanarat; martial law ruler of Thailand from 1957 to 1963] things have changed in the past 30 years.

The military is no longer a stabilizing factor necessary for economic development, if it ever was. Actually, as we saw here in Thailand, military intervention can act as a destabilizing factor in the new world order of global economics.

As former Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun said at a conference at the Asian Institute of Management in Manila on Thursday: "It is no longer a question whether one should opt for economic development or democracy. The twain must proceed together."

Indeed, even though according to Thai foreign policy Burma and China are both regarded as honoured friends, Thailand's national security is jeopardized by China's arming of SLORC to fight ethnic wars along the Thai border. And is Thailand's national security served by the construction of a naval base in the Irrawaddy Delta which will bring the Chinese Navy into the Indian Ocean?

So if Thai leaders are really interested in a stable friendly relationship with Burma then they should support a democratically elected government which solves its problems through diplomacy rather than a military government which relies on force to settle disputes.

"Civil-military relations do not evolve around political and economic crises alone, but also are a function of a crisis within the military itself," write political science professors Chai-Anan Samutwanit, Kusuma Sanitwong and Suchit Bunbongkan.

Perhaps then the crisis for the Army is not about the Dalai Lama, China or SLORC. Maybe the crisis is taking place within the military itself and concerns the changing role of the armed forces in Thailand: The Army is having an identity crisis.

In a recent interview with THE NATION WEEKLY BRIEFING on the role of the military in Thailand, former Supreme Commander Gen Saiyut Koetphon said "the military is used to claiming the leading role" in Thai society. But Gen Saiyut feels that the military is changing its mission to be more supportive of civilian authorities and cooperate with them, rather than leading them. Still he thinks that this change must take place gradually since the military has a long tradition of leadership, and "you can't change people overnight."

One academic with close ties to the military placed the disagreements over the wisdom of granting the Dalai Lama a visa in the context of the recent readjustments between military and civilian power. The military feels that since the May bloodshed it has been losing influence over national events, policymaking, and even the economic coffers of state enterprises.

For example, ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kan recently threatened to resign as the vice chairman of the board of directors of Thai International Airlines complaining that he had no work to do and that the board made decisions without consulting him.

And last Sunday Gen Wimon also warned MPs to think carefully before setting up a special committee to monitor military affairs to safeguard against possible coups. Gen Wimon said only armed forces of countries which had lost wars were subject to such monitoring methods.

The Army likewise feels that it was bypassed in making the decision to admit the Dalai Lama to Thailand, the academic said. The military is used to being consulted on issues of foreign affairs, and in 1987 and 1990 it used this influence to force the government to deny the Dalai Lama entry into Thailand. But this time the military was probably not even consulted, the lecturer speculates, and this damaged their view of the military's role. Hence the only way military leaders could be heard was for them to speak to the press.

If the debate sparked by the Dalai Lama's arrival this week is actually about something else—Thailand's constructive engagement policy and/or the proper role of the armed forces in Thai society—then those who say that the problems will persist after the Nobel laureates leave are correct. There is already renewed discussion of Thailand's "constructive engagement" policy toward Burma, and the civilian government is learning the delicate lessons of how to address the power of the military without perpetuating it.

Chawalit To Probe Terror Campaign in South

BK2002033993 Bangkok THE NATION in English 20 Feb 93 p A3

[Text] Interior Minister Chawalit Yongchaiyut will soon visit the lower South to get first-hand information on a new wave of terror campaigns by Muslim bandits, who seem to have managed to drive a wedge between the regional army and police.

Chawalit said a clearer government policy is needed to harmonize efforts by soldiers and police to get rid of remnants of Muslim separatists-turned bandits.

Recent bandit attacks on teachers in the region prompted the southern army chief to lash out at the police and threaten to seek the transfer of senior officers out of the area.

Under a Prime Minister's Office order, the southern army commander, responsible for security in the once volatile region, can propose to the government the transfer of local officials at all levels.

Teachers have also threatened a strike. In a move that embarrassed officials, they also offered paying "protection fees" to bandits in exchange for their safety.

"It's not that police and soldiers can't solve the problem," Chawalit said. "What we need to do is bring them to work together."

Lt Gen Kitti Ratanachaya, chief of the Fourth Army Region, had charged that while the military had managed to reduce the once influential separatist movement to splinter bandit groups, the police and local officials had failed to take the advantage of their weakened state and instead have "created conditions" for the guerrillas to become violent again.

Kitti cited recent shooting of villagers by police who accused the victims of larceny. One of the victims, he said, was a relative of the leader of a bandit group.

Chawalit yesterday described Kitti as a "good man" who has become "frustrated."

Vietnam

PRC Defense Minister's Postpones Visit

BK2402123493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1222 GMT 24 Feb 93

[By Jean-Claude Chapon]

[Text] Hanoi, Feb 24 (AFP)—China has asked that a key visit to Vietnam, already delayed by a week, by its Defense Minister Qin Jiwei be postponed indefinitely due to his illness, an official source said here on Wednesday.

Chinese authorities said General Qin was in hospital but did not give details, according to the Vietnamese source, who asked not to be named.

The postponement coincided with a report from another official source here that a Chinese ship, the Nam Hoi 502, has entered Vietnam's territorial waters without permission, violating international maritime law since Friday. The source said that the ship was conducting seismic research in the Gulf of Tonkin off the coast of Quang Binh and Quang Tri provinces in central Vietnam. It was the second violation of Vietnamese territorial waters by Chinese vessels in the same area in the past few months.

Vietnam and China decided in 1991 to take steps to normalise ties after decades of heated relations which climaxed in a brief a bloody border war in 1979. But the two nations have yet to resolve their territorial differences over land and sea, despite several rounds of talks. Beijing had earlier requested that Qin's visit, initially slated to begin on Friday, be delayed by one week.

A spokesman for Vietnam's Foreign Affairs Ministry had said last week that China's defense minister was to arrive in Hanoi in February but the date had yet to be fixed.

According to a source at the ministry of transport's marine department, the Chinese ship's entry into Vietnam's territorial waters was "in violation of the sovereignty of Vietnam and existing maritime accords between the two countries."

The Nam Hoi's appearance in the Gulf of Tonkin is the second time in some two months that Vietnam has announced a violation of its territorial waters by a Chinese ship conducting research. The first left the area the night before China's Prime Minister Li Peng arrived in Hanoi in December.

Beijing and Hanoi have yet to resolve disputes over territorial waters in the Gulf of Tonkin, and sovereignty of the Paracel and Spratley islands, two archipelagos in the South China Sea. Taiwan, the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei, as well as Vietnam and China are involved in a sovereignty dispute over all or part of the Spratleys. China controls the Paracels.

Radio: U.S. Businesses Need Embargo Lifted

BK2302133993 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] During his visit to Vietnam last week, French President Francois Mitterrand called on the U.S. to lift their embargo against Vietnam. He described it as an outmoded policy. This statement has surprised quite a few observers, because France is one of the U.S.' close allies. However, to the American people this statement is in conformity with their interests. Here is our radio opinion.

Although the U.S. President has shown no reaction to the French president's proposal for lifting the trade embargo against Vietnam, some people in the American political circles have expressed their support for it. On Wednesday in Washington, Senator Larry Pressler of the Republican Party called on President Bill Clinton to set up full diplomatic relations with Hanoi. He also expressed the same aspiration with the French—to forget the past and open a new page in the relations with Vietnam.

Meanwhile, many U.S. companies have come to Vietnam. Last week a group of businessmen representing 26 companies which have been concerned about possibility of doing business with Vietnam, visited Hanoi to meet and hold talks with Vietnamese Government officials.

At present, many well-known U.S. companies including Boeing, Kodak, (?DuPont), and Kellogg have had their representatives in Hanoi seek for locations for their offices here. However, American companies have (?not been entitled).

The easing of the trade embargo by Washington seemed to support U.S. businessmen, but on the contrary, has made the situation worsen. U.S. businessmen maintain that this situation assists the Asian and European business circles to strengthen their efforts before the Americans come to Vietnam. That's why at present not only the French head of state, but also broad opinion, including that of American businessmen, wants to lift the U.S. embargo against Vietnam.

'Serious Challenge' to U.S. World Order Viewed

BK2302134793 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 22 Feb 93

[NHAN DAN article by Nguyen Tri Kha: "The United States Still Wants To Be the Sole Superpower"]

[Text] In his first State of the Union message delivered at the Congress on 17 February, newly elected President Clinton once again affirmed his goal to ensure the U.S. role as the sole superpower.

He said: With the cold war already over, the United States now can responsibly cut its military budget. But under all circumstances, the United States should continue to have the world's best-equipped combat force.

The new U.S. president also emphatically said that only through this can the United States undertake its role as the sole leading superpower in a world which is now being challenged by local conflicts, ethnic wars, and a danger of nuclear terrorism.

Analysts pointed out that Clinton's State of the Union message reiterated his intention of reshaping those strategic priorities which he had mentioned earlier. Clinton once said: Various primary objectives of our national security and our foreign policy should be changed but our national defense should remain the world's most powerful and, at the same time, should meet demands for a reduction in size in the post-cold war era.

Clinton presented a five-year program to reorganize the U.S. Armed Forces aimed at saving some US$80 billion within the next four years, that is, twice as much as previously planned by the former Bush administration. With this plan, Clinton wants to kill two birds with one stone. Although he is not the one who helped end the cold war, he would be credited with being the first president to bring about a peace prize for the United States. From another perspective, a cutback in a military budget would also help him reduce the budget deficit as he already promised U.S. voters.

Mr. Clinton still paid attention to ensuring that the U.S. Armed Forces are best equipped in various ways. He advocated a heavy cut in the costly Star Wars program so as to concentrate efforts on a weapons program against ballistic missiles and to develop various systems of sophisticated and more practical weapons and equipment such as those weapons with special capabilities of causing aircraft on take-off to be pinned down on runways and military trucks' tires to melt down, or neutralizing the enemy's heavy weapons of all sorts.

He also favored the pursuit of a program to develop V-22 aircraft with a vertical take-off capability.

The U.S. President declared that he would, together with other nuclear superpowers, seek ways to cut back on nuclear weapons and take effective measures aimed at banning the proliferation of nuclear weapons. He also favored the U.S. congressional move to impose a ban on nuclear testing for nine months and a total ban by the year 1996 except when there is a violation by another country.

He supported the signing of the SALT-II Treaty with Russia. This treaty helped the United States substantially cut the extra quantities of its nuclear weapons stockpiling while still maintaining its nuclear superiority. According to the SALT-II Treaty, the quantities of strategic nuclear weapons owned by the United States and Russia are equal. As the United States can keep its modern weapons—especially submarine-based nuclear missiles which outperform Russia's in terms of accuracy and demolition capability—it continues to maintain its position as the leading nuclear superpower.

President Clinton plans to reduce the U.S. regular military personnel strength from 1.6 to 1.4 million by the year 1997. The U.S. military troops stationed in Asia will also be reduced from 150,000 to 100,000. The Clinton Administration has asked its allies to make more financial contributions to the expenses incurred by the maintenance of U.S. military presence in their countries. Japan has paid up to 75 percent of the expenses of U.S. troops in Japan. This has helped the United States pay even less than what it is supposed to do to maintain these troops right on U.S. soil.

Clinton favored the idea of smaller but more mobile forces capable of coping with all contingencies in various regions and serving a plan to use force when necessary. Mr. Clinton also supported the setting up of a U.N. rapid deployment force to deal with fanatic cases. This advocacy shows that it is the United States' design to strive to consolidate existing alliances; coordinate policies to seek support from its allies and ask the latter to share with it the responsibility of maintaining peace and security; and use allied forces to realize various U.S. designs in the world as was the case with the recent U.S.-waged Gulf war.

Obviously, although its attention is being focused on its number-one priority objective of U.S. economic recovery, the Clinton administration still does not forget to consolidate and increase its military strength in an attempt to play a decisive role in settling international and regional issues.

With the Soviet Union and East Europe already falling apart and the old world order collapsing, the United States seems to be in an advantageous position in setting up a new world order. Yet, the United States is being faced with the emergence of new economic, political, and military superpowers and new dangers arising from regional conflicts and from racial and religious disputes. This is precisely a serious challenge to the leading role in the new world order now being strenuously built by the United States.

Khmer Rouge Election Participation 'Dangerous'

BK2302150593 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] Complicated developments have been seen in Cambodia. It is due to the Democratic Kampuchea who tries to seize power in this country. The Voice of Vietnam has the following report:

Speaking at a regular press conference in Phnom Penh recently, the spokesman for the State of Cambodia Government denounced the Khmer Rouge for plotting a war to seize power in Cambodia. The spokesman stressed that the highest objective of the Khmer Rouge is to (?get) power by any means. However, he also said that the Khmer Rouge are not able to grab power by peaceful means in an election. That's why they were resorting to force.

Dealing with the proposal to set up a provisional government including four Cambodian factions, the spokesman for the State of Cambodia Government held that it will be dangerous if the Khmer Rouge faction is included, because it has refused to take part in the peace process in the country. Despite the complicated developments, recently the UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali has declared that the UN-sponsored general election in Cambodia will be held in May as scheduled, even if the Khmer Rouge still refuse to take part in it.

Meanwhile, a Western diplomat disclosed that 11 countries participating in peace process in Cambodia have met in New York to discuss the Cambodia situation prior to election. They also considered the new UN report on the Cambodian situation.

Plenum Issues Education, Training Resolution

BK2002131793 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 15 Feb 93

["Text" of Fourth Party Central Committee Plenum Resolution on the Continuation of the Education and Training Renovation]

[Text] I. Current Education and Training Situation

The education reformation under Resolution No. 14 in January 1979 of the Political Bureau of the Fourth Party Central Committee was implemented until 1987. And it was mainly concerned with general education. After the Sixth National Party Congress, this education reformation was adjusted one step under the party renovation line and applied in the education and training system.

In more than 10 years, despite many difficulties, the education undertaking has progressed and developed in some areas. However, some important aspects have worsened.

1. The national education system from nursery schools to universities was established. The school network has widely expanded in the country. Nursery schools, kindergartens, and preschools once fragmented at the beginning of the market mechanism have been corrected and consolidated. The general education system of 12 years with new curriculum and textbooks has been unitedly applied in the entire country. The popularization of primary education has been progressing.

Specialized schools and selected classes have developed with fairly good quality. Vocational training has been an important part of the national education network, including official vocational training schools and non-official training classes.

The tertiary and vocational high school education has started reorganizing its training process, diversifying its training methods. The post-graduate training has been accelerated. The state education management work from nursery schools to post-graduate has been unified. The management of education sector and schools has been initially renewed.

The achieved results manifest the efforts of the contingent of teachers and education management cadres; striving of students; leadership and management of party committees, government, and mass organizations; and great contribution from the public.

2. However, compared to the national development requirements, our education system still has many shortcomings. The education renovation under the Resolution No. 14 of the Political Bureau of the Fourth Party Central Committee in 1979 laid down a number of correct policies that need to be continued. Nevertheless, the resolution set objectives which were too high and included inappropriate contents. After the Sixth National Party Congress, adjustments have been made. However, up to now, the goal, content, method, and scope of education and training have not met the requirements of the renovation undertaking.

The duty of providing training for talented people has not been given proper attention. The quality and results of education are still low. The educational and vocational knowledge, ability for practical application, and understanding on social and human aspects of students are still poor. A significant portion of students has inadequate knowledge of politics, morality, and lifestyle. Students' physiques have been deteriorating.

The number of good, excellent students have increased but the number of below standard students have increased at a greater rate. The trained people are lacking dynamism and are slow in adapting to the renewing socioeconomy. Graduated students find difficulty finding a job.

High school education and supplementary education have been decreased. The scope of tertiary education and vocational training is still small. Education service in ethnic minority-inhabited, mountainous, and difficult areas is greatly decreased compared to 10 years ago. The major part of the contingent of teachers has not been received satisfactory training and refresher retraining to meet the need of the education renovation. A teacher's life is permeated with hardship; many have to do extra work or provide extra private tutoring for a living.

3. The main reason of the aforementioned poor and deteriorating situation is the slow reform on structure, systems, goals, content, and method of the education sector itself. It has not satisfactorily performed its state consultative role and management duty.

Party committees, government organs, and social organizations have not fully realized the role and effectiveness of education. They have not quickly outlined efficient policies and measures to accelerate the development of the education service.

The economy has developed slowly, national budget funding for education service is limited, and the population increases quickly. All have caused great difficulties for the development of education.

II. Continuation of Education and Training Renovation

A. Guiding Viewpoints:

1. Together with science and technology, education and training were considered as the uppermost national policy by the Seventh National Party Congress. They are the driving force and fundamental condition to ensure the accomplishment of socioeconomic targets and national building and protection.

Education investment must be considered as one of major directions of development investment and we must create conditions for the education service to go ahead so that it can satisfactorily serve our socioeconomic development. We must mobilize the entire society in support of education work and encourage people from all walks of life to contribute to the construction of a national education system under the management of the government.

2. Education is developed to improve the people's intelligent standard, training manpower, and fostering men of talent. It will turn out people with better knowledge on culture, science, working skills for independent, creative, and disciplined work. It will produce people of humanitarianism, patriotism, and love for socialism with a healthy lifestyle, meeting the needs for national development in the 90's and the future. We must broaden the education scope together with the improvement of education quality and result and we must link study with practice, talent with virtue.

3. Education must both closely attach to the needs of national development and match the progressing trend of the era, implement regular education system for everybody, and confirm that learning for the whole life is the privilege and responsibility of every citizen.

4. We must diversify all forms of training and implement social justice in education. Students must pay for their school fees, people employing trained labor must contribute to the training fee. The government is to have policies to ensure the poor and those entitled to social welfare policies can go to school.

B. Major Policies and Measures.

1. To continue perfecting the new structure of the national education system. To consolidate the public schools and transform a number of them into semipublic schools. To encourage the opening of community-run schools. To allow the opening of private schools and classes for preschool children and for job training, including vocational training, technical education, and tertiary education. Private schools in general education are prohibited. To encourage the broadening of informal education and training, promote self-studying and ensure every citizen can study, sit for examination, choose his own school, teacher, and career under the law. They can study in the country or go overseas for their study.

2. To reorganize the system of schools to improve the effectiveness of the investment, material bases, and teachers. In particular, universities, colleges, and scientific research institutes must be organized rationally to associate the institutes with the schools and link the education and training with the scientific research.

To build step-by-step high-quality schools in all disciplines, educational degrees, and grades; to broaden the systems of schools and classes for gifted students in general education; and to build a number of key national universities. To reform the supplementary education and on-the-job training.

3. To see that by the year 2000, illiteracy will have been eradicated among the working people in the 15-35 age group; to actively reduce the number of illiterates in other age groups; to complete the universalisation of primary education, first of all, for children aged from six to 14; and speed up the universalisation of secondary education, especially in the urban areas.

4. To establish new grades in high schools aimed at providing good preparation for students who will continue their education to a higher level and for the majority who want to graduate in order to enter working life. To provide education in working skill and vocational guidance for students along the line of combining general education with vocational education. And to establish the specialized secondary education level.

5. To broaden job education for gradually forming the technical education in the society, to train a highly skilled work force, and to build vocational training centers and technical training centers. To develop community-run and private job-training schools and classes, to encourage the teaching of traditional jobs, and to properly remunerate teaching artisans.

6. To expand university training to an appropriate level. To expand the postgraduate system and to promote postgraduate training.

7. To reset the goal and replan the educational program, content, method, and practical training for each discipline, educational degree, and grade. To pay special attention to the education of Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh's thoughts, humanist content, and national character of culture and assimilate the best cultural values of mankind.

To reform the content and the teaching and studying method of science and technique subjects, especially the subjects on economics and management. To accelerate education on the law, morality, aesthetics, environment, and population; to provide physical education for students; to broaden the teaching and learning of foreign languages and informatics; and to carry out well the program of national defence education.

To renovate the teaching and studying method in all educational degrees and grades; satisfactorily combine studying with practice, learning with labor production, practical experience, and scientific research; and to link the school with society. To apply modern educational method to provide students with better capacity in thinking, creativeness, and problem solving and pay attention to training gifted students.

8. To accelerate the research and application of science and technology and to conduct research on educational science for the development of education service.

9. To strengthen and expand the education service in localities inhabited by ethnic minority groups and difficult areas and to immediately apply some urgent measures to stop the degradation of education service in mountainous areas. To consolidate and build new boarding high schools for ethnic students and pay attention to the cadre training in ethnic minority-inhabited areas from the central to local levels.

10. To increase the leadership of party committees over the education undertaking, this resolution should be understood profoundly by those in the party and government sectors and levels. To build strong party committees and retrain the party cadres and management cadres in the education service.

The government is to promulgate laws, regulations, and policies and build practical plans and programs for the implementation of the aforementioned targets and tasks on education and training. To gradually increase the national budget allocation for education and training and mobilize the public contribution and aid from international organizations, including seeking loans from foreign countries to develop the education service.

To readjust the collection of school fees and apply the school fee exemption in primary education. To determine the categories of school children and students to be exempted from or enjoy reduction of school fees, or to receive scholarships and other allowances. To set up funds in support of education with financial assistance from individuals and organizations inside and outside the country and to abolish all unreasonable and arbitrary contributions by pupils and students.

The Vietnam National Front, mass organizations, social organizations, and all families and individuals, together with the education and training sector, are to take care of the education cause under the motto that the government and public work together to build a model education consisting of school, family, and society.

11. To build the contingent of teachers and education management cadres, apply policies to provide material and spiritual encouragement to teachers, and attract intelligent people into the teaching profession. To set up special favored policies in salary and fringe benefits for teachers in difficult places such as highland and isolated areas, islands, and mountainous areas.

The government will have policies to admit good students to teaching colleges, increase funding and leadership to make positive changes in quality at teaching colleges, to rearrange teachers according to their positions and standards, and to combine the training of new teachers with providing refresher training for currently working teachers.

12. To reform the management of the education and training, to clearly define the power and duty on education and training management of the Ministry of Education and Training and ministerial level organs, provinces, cities, precincts, districts, and the grassroots in the fields of planning, personnel, finance, and inspection. To increase the state education inspection.

The planning for education development must include state education system and semi-public, community-run, and private schools which attach training with working. The state management responsibility of the education ministry and departments of education and training must be heightened. At the same time, the autonomy right of grassroots must be strengthened, especially in universities, and democracy in schools must be broadened.

To urgently provide training and refresher training for the contingent of education management cadres at all levels and concentrate on cadres who perform the task of policy planning and education inspection.

For the party Central Committee.
[Signed] Do Muoi.

Health Care, Family Planning Resolution

BK2202140393 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 17 Feb 93

["Excerpts" from fourth party Central Committee Plenum Resolutions on pressing issues concerning public healthcare and protection in the present situation and on population and family planning]

[Text] Part 1 of the resolution on pressing issues concerning public healthcare and protection points out that the medical service has made major contributions to the fight against foreign aggression as well as to national construction. Many achievements have been made in the control and eradication of epidemics and social diseases, as well as in the improvement of people's health and an increase in the average life expectancy. People's health care has been a contributing factor to the people's confidence in our regime. The resolution also points out the main causes leading to shortcomings in people's healthcare and protection.

Part 2 of the resolution deals with basic viewpoints as follows:

1. Good health is the most valuable asset of each individual as well as the whole society. It is also an important factor to national construction and defense. Therefore, it is necessary to ensure that everybody is entitled to healthcare.

2. Health care and the settlement of other questions relating to diseases must focus on prevention first. To this end, it is necessary to step up the campaign for hygiene, disease prevention, and physical training along with raising the efficiency of disease treatment.

3. It is important to combine modern medicine with traditional medicine.

4. The responsibility for healthcare rests with the community and citizens as well as with party committee echelons, administrative organs, people's organization, and mass societies in which the medical service assumes a key role.

5. It is necessary to implement the guideline 'let the state and people join efforts,' diversify the forms of health care (state, collectives, and people) in which the state medical service plays a key role, and make the best use of the medical potential of the country while at the same time broadening international cooperation.

Part 3 of the resolution sets forth major policies and solutions. For example, it is necessary to strengthen the leadership and guidance by party organizations and administrative bodies at all levels as well as intensify the activities of the Fatherland Front, people's organizations, and mass societies. It is important to whip up a widespread movement for health care among the people, to revamp the public health care service, to improve the management patterns and operating procedures of the medical service in order to enhance the quality and efficiency of state management at all levels, to implement the law and sub-laws on people's health care and protection, to educate everyone on regulations governing medical service, to strengthen medical inspection work, and to gradually build and develop a public health care information network.

Part 1 of the resolution on population and family planning evaluates population and family planning results so far. Part 2 of the resolution deals with population and family planning policies in the days ahead. Concerning basic concepts, the resolution points out:

1. Population and family planning are an important part of the national development strategy, a primary socioeconomic issue of our country, and a fundamental element to improve the living conditions of each person, each family, and the whole society.

2. The fundamental measure in the implementation of population and family planning policies is to combine motivation, propaganda, and education with making family planning services available to everyone; and to adopt incentive policies toward families who comply with the 'one or two children' formula aimed at promoting the mass movement to respond to population and family planning. The general objective is to reduce the size of the family so people may enjoy a plentiful, happy life. As a practical objective, each family should have one or two children so that by the year 2015, each couple in the whole country has an average of two children, thus eventually achieving the goal of stabilizing the size of population by the middle of the 21st century. Concentrated efforts are needed to effect marked progress right in the 90's.

The resolution also sets forth solutions for the period till the year 2000 and points out: Population and family planning must be an important part of the practical action programs to be implemented by party committee echelons, state agencies, people's organizations, and mass societies. The responsibility for population and family planning rests with each household. No organizations or individuals should excuse themselves from this campaign. Key comrade leaders at all levels should go out of their way to provide leadership and guidance over this task, bearing in mind the need to motivate the whole society to respond to this campaign and resolutely make set goals come true.

Culture, Art Resolution

BK2302044793 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 16 Feb 93

["Text" of Fourth Party Central Committee Plenum Resolution on future cultural and artistic activities]

[Text] Culture is the spiritual foundation of society, a driving force for accelerating the socioeconomic development program, and one of the socialist aims in building society. Literature and arts are an important part of national culture symbolizing the people's appreciation in truth, goodness, and beauty.

The Sixth and Seventh CPV [Communist Party of Vietnam] Congressess issued resolutions, including Resolution No. 5 of the sixth party Central Committee Political Bureau, to develop the party's correct cultural and artistinc lines and policies. These resolutions are concerned with creating favorable conditions for cultural and artistic activities so as to meet the people's aspiration and appreciation in culture and the arts. This positively contributes to the renovation undertaking.

It can be said that our literary and artistic activities at present are more diversified in term of contents, topics, forms, and methods of presentation. A number of our new literary and artistic works of high cultural value have been warmly welcomed by the people. Many forms of our traditional culture have been restored. Thanks to the present developed mass media facilities, especially the radio and television network, these cultural and artistic works have been widely disseminated among the people. Many cultural activities have been carried out on a nationwide scale, thus attracting millions of people throughout the country. Cultural exchanges with foreign countries have also been gradually expanded. Various contingents of our cultural and artistic cadres have undergone many ordeals, thus becoming mature and capable. These cultural and artistic cadres have firmly placed their confidence in the party and the people's revolutionary cause, despite difficulties at home and complicated changes abroad during the past several years. They have maintained their good quality and positively contributed to developing culture and arts.

We have also faced issues of prime concern while scoring positive achievements. These include the emergence of a lifestyle aimed at amassing wealth at any costs, the existence of unhealthy tastes, the increase in superstition, and the circulation of publications carrying decadent culture in our society. A number of literary works rejected our revolutionary gains and culture, proposed a separation of literary and artistic activities from the party leadership, and resented our national heroes and great men. Moreover, the hostile forces are trying to commercialize our cultural and artistic activities, propagate a debauchered and violent lifestyle, and distribute publications carrying decadent culture to undermine us.

In the final analysis, these negative phenemona were the results of our country's socioeconomic crisis and the complicated changes in the world during the past several years, especially the disintegration of the former Soviet Union and other socialist countries in Eastern Europe. The cause of these prolonged and serious negative phenomena, however, were due also to the party's loose leadership, the state's poor management from the central to the local levels, the mistake in assigning incompetent cadres to key positions, the lack of the state rules and regulations, insufficient budget for cultural and artistic activities, the lack of efforts to motivate and encourage the people to do good deeds, while failing to strongly criticize and condemn wicked schemes to damage our cultural and artistic activities.

The sixth party Central Committee Political Bureau Resolution No. 5 has manifested our party's new principled concepts within cultural and artistic domains, which encourages creativity in cultural and artistic works. The resolution, however, has not correctly appraised the complexity in the struggle of this front. It failed to foresee and map out measures to cope with the negative side of the market economy, which has affected cultural and artistic activities. Moreover, there were shortcomings in the dissemination and implementation of the resolution. In face of these shortcomings, a number of party committees and state agencies failed to take prompt measures to deal with the situation. Some of them even took inappropriate administrative measures to resolve the problem. A number of writers, artists, and party members have shown their weakness and lost confidence in the party.

It is necessary to say that the key tasks of our cultural and artistic sectors are to contribute to educating the Vietnamese people, enhancing their intelligence, improving their spiritual life, and promoting their good conducts. This helps to implement the renovation undertaking and the campaign to make the country powerful, people prosperous, and society advanced.

In the days ahead, efforts must be made to diversify and improve cultural and artistic activities so as to meet requirements of the people's spiritual life. Efforts must also be made to produce new works of higher quality to serve the renovation undertaking, promote positive acts to improve daily life, encourage creative works of new cultural values, and develop all potentials of the cultural and artistic circle. We must strive to resolutely criticize and oppose negative phenomena and deviated concepts, struggle against all acts and schemes against our fatherland and socialism, and eliminate the social vices which are damaging our national good morals.

While striving to fulfill these tasks, we must create conditions for the vigorous development of the Vietnamese culture at the end of the 90's and the beginning of the 21st century.

Our culture, built by the people and led by the party, is a modern one with profound national characteristics. To preserve our culture, we must strive to firmly grasp the following guiding concepts:

1. We must bear in mind that our cultural and artistic activities are also aimed at maintaining national independence and socialism and that the cultural and artistic work is part and parcel of the renovation undertaking. We must thoroughly understand and implement President Ho Chi Minh's concept in treating culture and the arts as a front and writers and artists as combatants working for this front.

2. We must ensure democracy and freedom for all creative and cultural works, encourage capable artists, and commend writers and artists for their works of high value to the masses, nation, and the era.

3. We must develop the national culture while expanding cultural exchanges with foreign countries, try to absorb the quintessence of human civilization, to enrich Vietnamese culture, to oppose decadent culture, and to protect our national cultural heritage.

4. We must enhance the effectiveness of our cultural, literary, and artistic activities; vigorously assert and develop the new factors and lofty values of our national culture, overcome obstacles to our nation's advancement, criticize and condemn bad and cruel acts, encourage people to do good things, and resolutely struggle against the hostile forces' wicked schemes.

5. We must realize that cultural and artistic activities are the work of the whole society. As a result, we must develop these activities, especially those launched by the state, collectives, and individuals to serve the party line and state management. We must strive to overcome the tendency to commercialize cultural and artistic activities.

To fulfill these tasks, we must integrate efforts in carrying out the following measures:

1. We must encourage cadres and party members to firmly grasp the party Central Committee Fourth Plenum's resolution on culture and the arts, launch a politico-ideological drive to implement this resolution, and urge the cultural and artistic circle as well as propaganda and training cadres to speed up the implementation of the resolution.

2. We must perfect mass organizations and societies responsible for cultural and artistic activities especially in terms of organization and assignment of cadres, strive to set up party chapters at literary and artistic associations and party committees at state cultural and artistic management agencies, and improve the quality of research institutes, departments, and schools dealing with literature and the arts. We must strive to improve the quality of articles printed in newspapers and cultural and artistic journals or those to be broadcast by radio and television stations. We must enhance the quality of cultural textbooks and the contingent of lecturers at cultural and artistic schools and colleges. Measures must be taken to provide scholarships for cultural and artistic students; to grant privileges to competent writers and artists; to rearrange the organization and activities of the cinematographic sector; to improve publication, printing, and circulation work; to widely distribute works of high ideological-artistic values; to prohibit the printing and distribution of books and photos carrying decadent and reactionary culture; and to correctly assign to handle cultural and artistic activities competent and effective cadres who can strengthen unity among creative writers and artists to carry out the common tasks.

3. We must provide financial support to various cultural and artistic activities designed to serve the masses as well as to other cultural units or projects of high cultural value that cannot earn income from the people. We must continue to supplement and perfect the system of wages, trading of art works, taxation, and the incentive policy toward artist and so forth in order to ensure that professional writers and artists can earn enough to continue their profession. We must satisfactorily implement the state decision on presenting annual national awards to outstanding writers and artists.

4. We must promptly institutionalize lines and policies set by resolutions of the party Central Committee, design research programs, and promulgate legal documents pertaining to the cultural and artistic activities. We must immediately strive to formulate a number of essential laws including the laws on export, on preservation of historical relics, and on protection of national culture.

5. We must speed up the mass movement to protect and develop the national culture and arts while disseminating the values of national and international culture among the people. We must continue to improve the radio and television network and increase the number of newspapers and magazines to support cultural and artistic activities. We must strive to improve and develop libraries from the central down to grass-roots levels while trying to build a modern national library meeting the requirements of the people's demand for information, scientific research, and cultural and artistic works. We must strengthen the movement to build a civilized lifestyle and modern families while striving to oppose degradation at museums, and historial and cultural places. We must try to build more statues of our national heroes and cultural celebrities at public places.

6. We must formulate a general policy to protect and develop ethnic minority culture in the Vietnamese community.

7. Efforts must be made to expand cultural exchanges with foreign countries under various forms, widely introduce our cultural values to the world, disseminate among our people the cultural values of other nations, promote export and import of cultural items, and encourage cultural exchanges between Vietnamese and foreign artistic troupes. We must formulate rules and regulations to protect our national cultural values while prohibiting the importation of bad and decadent culture into our country.

8. We must strive to build material-technical bases for cultural and artistic activities, improve our mass media network, promote the handicraft industry, and strive to gradually catch up with cultural and artistic developments in other countries of the world.

Editorial Views Fourth Plenum Resolutions

BK2302075593 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Editorial from 15 Feb QUAN DOI NHAN DAN: "A Program of Action Immediately Must Be Outlined To Apply the Fourth Plenum Resolution to Life"]

[Text] The seventh party Central Committee has informed the entire party, army, and people that its fourth plenum, held from 4 to 14 January, was to discuss and issue resolutions for the continuation of educaton and training renovation; on work related to culture, literature, and art for the years ahead; on pressing problems in public health care and protection; on population and family planning policies; and on youth-related work in the new stage.

At its second plenum, the party Central Committee discussed work related to economic development, considering this the center of importance for national construction. At its third plenum, the party Central Committee discussed issues concerning the country's political situation, including the need to renovate and rectify the party. This was considered a key task.

Together with the resolutions of the second and third plenums, the fourth plenum resolutions further substantiates the Seventh Party Congress resolution concerning socioeconomic development in close combination with the need to care for, foster, and develop the human factor with the aim of making the people prosperous, the country powerful, and society civilized.

Because people are the most valuable asset of society and the country, it is necessary to care for, foster, and develop the human factor. Then man can develop himself comprehensively and bring into full play his ability and intellect to bring about an abundant and happy life for his compatriots and for himself, as well as to serve the cause of national construction and defense. This is a lofty aim not only of our society and regime, but also of our party.

Although the resolutions of the party Central Committee's fourth plenum varies in specific contents, all of the resolutions conspicuously manifest our party's viewpoints and conceptions concerning people, as well as its heavy responsibilities for the free, happy, and abundant life of our people and unending existence and development of our country.

These viewpoints, conceptions, and heavy responsibilities must be deeply implanted in all cadres and party members. They must be transformed into their thoughts, feelings, and specific actions in their daily life, as well as into their responsibilities in their public service as true and faithful leaders and servants of the people, as advised by Uncle Ho.

The party Central Committee has repeatedly mentioned the various aspects and subject matters of the people's spiritual and material life. We, however, can say that this was the first time the party Central Committee devoted the full plenum to discussing and reaching a decision on a number of issues directly related to the people's livelihood, especially their spiritual life and health. Once again, this attests to the pressing issue of social life and our party's heavy responsibility for the people's abundant life, education, and health.

All the resolutions of the party central Committee's fourth plenum have been made public through the mass media. This constitutes a new change in the task of disseminating party resolutions, making it possible for these resolutions to promptly reach all cadres and party members, as well as the people. The resolutions then can be quickly applied to life and translated into specific actions of all party and mass organizations.

In view of this, the dissemination of the party Central Committee's fourth plenum resolutions should be carried out intensively and scrupulously by all party committee echelons from the grass-roots level. Although they vary in specific contents, each of these resolutions maintains an important position in the task of caring for the construction of infrastructure projects in support of society right from the beginning, as well as for training, fostering, and shaping a new type of man.

The contents of these resolutions help encourage social development through their interreaction with life. Meanwhile, economic development and the consolidation of national defense are closely linked to social development. Therefore, when disseminating the fourth plenum resolutions, we must not make light of any contents and must not separate these resolutions from one another.

Apart from assessing the actual situation in our country and pointing out its causes, these resolutions expound on the viewpoints, guiding thoughts, and policies of the party and furnish some possible solutions.

We must depend on each echelon, sector, domain, and objective to introduce appropriate methods to ensure that these resolutions are duly and properly implemented. This is aimed at achieving outstanding efficiency and acquiring practical knowledge in action. A matter of decisive significance is that we must institute, at all costs, a specific and practical program of action for each locality, echelon, and sector.

It is necessary for every party committee echelon to immediately know the contents of its plan of action. Plans of action must be balanced, correctly placed, and carried out in such a way as to ensure that all resolutions of the Fourth Plenum are implemented along with those of the Second and Third Plenums and that all the specific tasks of each unit, each locality, echelon, and each sector are fulfilled.

All cadres and party members must outline a clear, targeted plan. They must also exhibit supreme examples in ideological perception and action in order to educate, persuade, and encourage the masses to successfully implement the party's resolutions.

All resolutions of the party Central Committee's Fourth Plenum are directly related to the task of building the Army, as well as to improving the material and spiritual lives of soldiers.

It is necessary for all party organizations in the Army to profoundly understand the party's viewpoints and concepts expounded on in each resolution and firmly grasp the contents and solutions of these resolutions together with the actual situation of their localities, units, and sectors so that specific and suitable plans of action can be mapped out.

It is also necessary for them to issue special resolutions for directing and organizing the implementation of the resolutions of the party Central Committee and its Military Commission on the task of caring for soldiers' spiritual lives and health, thus helping to create the Army's integrated strength in national construction and defense for the sake of the people's happiness.

Radio Reports Population, Family Resolution

BK2302111193 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 18 Feb 93

["Text" of Fourth Party Central Committee Plenum Resolution on Policy Concerning the Population and Family Planning Work]

[Text] I. The implementation of the population and family planning program during the past period.

During the past period, the party and state have formulated lines and policies on the population and family planning program and have scored some achievements. Measures have been taken to carry out the family planning program while efforts have been made to mobilize various people's strata to participate in this campaign. We have also won material support and assistance from foreign countries, thereby being able to reduce the average rate of each married woman—of child-bearing age—having six children in the 80's down to four children at present. However, the results attained are still relatively low as compared to the set targets. By the end of 1992, Vietnam's population had reached 70 million. If the population growth rate continues at two percent annually and each married woman of child-bearing age has an average of nearly four children as at present, Vietnam's population will double every 30 years.

The causes of this rapid population growth were due firstly to negligence by party committees and the administration in implementing the family planning program. They failed to realize that this program is a national policy, thus paying little attention to organizing the implementation of the program. As a result, the movement to encourage the people to participate in the program has not been extensively and comprehensively carried out. No proper efforts have been made to educate and persuade the people to get rid of the old psychological concepts and customary practices while the state budget allotted for the population and family planning work is insufficient. Moreover, equipment and facilities provided for the task are very limited while management work is poor and statistics on the population are inaccurate.

The rapid population growth is one of the important factors obstructing the socioeconomic growth, creating numerous difficulties in daily life, and causing a setback in developing the intelligence, culture, and physical fitness of mankind. If this population growth is allowed to continue, in the near future our country will face numerous difficulties and serious danger in various domains. As a result, it is essential and imperative for us to satisfactorily carry out the family planning program to quickly reduce the population growth and stabilize our population size.

II. Policy on the population and family planning work for the days ahead.

A. Fundamental concepts.

1. Population activity and family planning is an important part of our country's development strategy. It is one of our primary socioeconomic issues and a fundamental element to improve the living conditions of each person, each family, and the whole society.

2. The basic measures in implementing the population and family planning program are to combine motivation, propaganda, and education with making a family planning program available to everyone; to adopt incentive policies toward families who comply with the 'one or two children' formula, and to launch a movement to motivate the people to implement the family planning program.

3. Investments made in the population and family planning program will bring about an effective and high economic result. The state should increase the budget allotment for this task while mobilizing contributions from the masses and seeking assistance from nations in the world.

4. Efforts must be made to motivate the masses to participate in the population and family planning work. A specialized organ must be set up to manage the task and optimally exploit the available work force and facilities.

5. To attain our goal in a short period of time, it is necessary for echelons of the party and the administration to guide and supervise the implementation of the population and family planning program in accordance with the set schedules.

B. Objectives of the population and family planning program.

The general objectives are to reduce the size of the family in our society so people may enjoy a plentiful and happy life. As a practical goal, each family should have one or two children so that by the year 2015, each couple in the whole country has an average of two children, thus eventually achieving the goal of stabilizing the size of the population by the middle of the 21st century. Efforts, however, must be made to effect remarkable progress in this task right into the 90's.

C. Solutions for the period till the year 2000.

1. Party and state leadership over population and family planning.

Population and family planning must be an important part of the practical action programs to be implemented by party committee echelons, state agencies, people's organizations, and mass societies. The responsibility for population and family planning rests with each household. No organizations or individuals should excuse themselves from this campaign. Key comrade leaders at all levels should go out of their way to provide leadership and guidance over this task, bearing in mind the need to motivate the whole society to respond to this campaign and resolutely make set goals come true. It is necessary to work out strong measures and incorporate them into well-defined legal documents.

2. Population and family planning funding.

It is necessary to ensure sufficient funds for population and family planning based on a plan to be decided by the government as well as exert control over all funding sources according to set plans and objectives to guarantee effective budget allocation and utilization.

3. Population and family planning organization.

It is necessary to strengthen population and family planning committees from the central down to grassroots levels. The standing bodies of population and family planning committees at all levels must be staffed with highly qualified cadres who know how to maintain close contact with the various sectors and echelons in overseeing or coordinating actions aimed at supporting population and family planning. A widespread population and family planning network must be set up at each hamlet, each village, and each city block to ensure that population and family planning information and services are readily available to citizens.

4. Population and family planning information, education, and propaganda.

It is necessary to consolidate population and family planning information, widespreadly disseminate population and family planning policies and measures, and organize appropriate and diversified educational activities to appeal to the whole society and reach out to all localities and recipients, particularly the countryside and young men and women, thus effecting a profound change in the mentality of everyone, first of all young couples, so they can fully realize the importance and advantages of family planning and stand ready to accept the 'one or two children' formula.

5. Family planning services.

It is important to promptly supply users with enough birth-control devices and gradually diversify contraceptive methods with high quality, efficiency, safety, and convenience. In particular, attention should be paid to increasing the rate of men who accept and apply contraceptive methods. It is necessary to consolidate and expand family planning support services by means of the state- operated public health care system. At the same time, efforts are needed to promote the role of the community in making family planning services available to each family and each user. It is necessary to guarantee widespread sales of birth-control devices. Incentive measures must be taken to encourage organizations, collectives, and private parties to provide family planning services under state management by the Ministry of Public Health.

6. A number of practical policies and regulations which need to be promulgated at an early date.

It is necessary to adopt incentive measures to provide spiritual and material support for those couples who actively respond to the policy on population and family planning. Spiritual support and material compensations should be given to population activists and family planning service providers. Administrative measures must be taken against those party members and state employees who refuse to implement the policy on population and family planning. It is important to produce or import modern birth-control devices and protect and encourage the exportation of high quality homemade contraceptive devices. Tax exemptions should be given to imported birth-control devices. At the same time, it is important to strictly prohibit the re-exportation of birth-control devices. A subsidiary pricing system should be applied to birth-control devices so they can be sold widely at low prices to the public. It is necessary to set up an investment system and effectively mobilize and control resources in support of population and family planning. Practical policies must be worked out to protect and develop some ethnic minorities which show signs of a decrease in population. It is important to amend or promulgate a number of socioeconomic policies in support of population and family planning, including improvement of the dietary system and health care for mothers and children, reduction of the infant mortality rate, job development, rational population distribution, eradication of illiteracy, improvement of people's intellectual standard, expansion of cultural establishments, rural development, health insurance, care for the elderly people, and so forth.

For the party Central Committee
[Signed] Do Muoi, general secretary

Legislative Program Announced at News Conference

BK2302152793 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] The Office of the National Assembly held a press conference in Hanoi this morning to announce the National Assembly's 1993 legislative program.

The press conference was jointly chaired by Phung Van Tuu, vice chairman of the National Assembly; and Vu Mao, head of the National Assembly's Office.

At the press conference, Comrade Vu Mao pointed out: Pursuant to a resolution on its 1993 tasks, the National Assembly affirmed that at the center of its 1993 legislative program are the following tasks:

—Continuing to perfect the legislative system in support of the renovation of the economic management mechanism.

—Stepping up production and business of various economic components.

—Broadening foreign economic relations.

—Strengthening national defense and security.

—Renovating the state apparatus in accordance with the renovative spirit of the constitution and other laws governing the organization of the state apparatus, and the guarantee of democratic liberties for citizens.

Based on this spirit, in 1993 the National Assembly will compile and pass 14 laws, 16 sets of regulations, and four other legal documents. The National Assembly will also prepare 20 draft laws and nine draft regulations to be discussed and passed at its sessions next year.

Party Secretary Attends Conference on Resolutions

BK2402032993 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] In Hanoi on 17-18 February, the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee Science and Education Department, the party committee of the Bloc of the Central Organ for Science and Education, the Ministry of Education and Training, and agencies and sectors concerned jointly held a conference to discuss the implementation of the Party Central Committee Fourth Plenum's resolutions. Comrade Nguyen Dinh Tu, secretary of the CPV Central Committee and chief of the party Central Committee Science and Education Department, chaired the conference.

The conference was briefed on the five important resolutions adopted by the recent Seventh Party Central Committee's Fourth Plenum, namely, the resolution on future cultural and artistic activities, the resolution on pressing issues concerning public health and protection, the resolution on policy pertaining to population and family planning, the resolution on education and training, and the resolution on youth-related work in the new situation.

Addressing the conference, Comrade Nguyen Dinh Tu urged sectors, agencies, universities, hospitals, and research institutes to study further these resolutions in order to formulate an effective program of action to implement them.

Vo Van Kiet Receives Thai Business Delegation

BK2302145393 Hanoi VNA in English 1407 GMT 23 Feb 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb. 23—Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet this afternoon received Mr. Asa Sarasin, executive director of the Padaeng Industrial Corporation, and his party now on a working visit to Vietnam at the invitation of the minister of heavy industry.

Mr. Asa Sarasin said that his delegation's visit to [Vietnam was] aimed at establishing long-term cooperative relations with Vietnam's heavy industry, particularly in the exploitation of lead, zinc and copper mines.

He further said that the Thai Government and business circles have been and are trying to find all opportunities to strengthen the friendship and develop the cooperative and neighbourly relations between Thailand and Vietnam, and expressed his confidence that Vietnam will become a prosperous country with a worthy role in the region and the world.

Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet told his guests that the relations between the two countries have made encouraging steps forward to which Mr Asa Sarasin, a former foreign minister, has made important contributions.

Thai Princess Leaves Ho Chi Minh City for Home

BK2302150393 Hanoi VNA in English 1404 GMT 23 Feb 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA feb. 23—Princess Maha Chakkri Sirinthon of Thailand today left Ho Chi Minh City for home, concluding her seven-day visit to Vietnam. After her official visit to Hanoi, the princess visited the central Vietnam provinces of Thua Thien-Hue, Quang Nam-Danang and Ho Chi Minh City from Feb. 20-23 where she was given a most cordial welcome by the local leaders and people.

Deputy Premier Meets Thai Prime Minister

BK2402062993 Hanoi VNA in English 0558 GMT 24 Feb 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb. 24—Thai Prime Minister Chuan Likphai received in Bangkok yesterday Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Khanh, who is in Thailand to attend the freshly concluded symposium 'Toward a Southeast Asia of the 21st Century'.

Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Khanh conveyed to his Thai host the greetings and good-health wishes from Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and briefed him on the new progress in Vietnam's socio-economic development. He also pointed to Vietnam's wishes and practical deeds in promoting the multi-formed cooperation between Vietnam and Thailand and the other countries in Southeast Asia.

Prime Minister Chuan Likphai promised to do his best to support and create favourable conditions for the furtherance of the bilateral relations in many fields.

Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Nguyen Di Nien was present at the reception.

Earlier, on Feb. 22, Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Khanh attended and addressed the symposium organized by the Thai Institute of Security and International Studies and the Singaporean Information and Resource Centre. He expressed his high appreciation of the efforts made by the Vietnam ASEAN Study Group and the constructive ideas enclosed in a draft report entitled 'The Common Destiny of Southeast Asia in the 21st Century' delivered by Dr. M. R. Sukhumbhand Pavibatra.

The symposium was also addressed by Thai Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri, Malaysian Minister of Finance Anwar Ibrahim, chairman of the Philippine National Security Council Gen. Jose Almolte, Thai Deputy Foreign Minister Dr. Surin Phitsuwan, Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Nguyen Di Nien and many other Southeast Asian scholars.

While in Bangkok, the Vietnamese deputy prime minister also visited the Chulalongkon University and the Ramathipodi Hospital.

Radio Reviews Economic Relations With Thailand

BK2302092393 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0015 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Essay by station correspondent Nguyen Chan in the "International Topic" program]

[Text] In 1992, despite its unstable political situation, Thailand still scored many economic achievements, reaching an economic development rate of more than 7.5 percent, one of the highest rates in Asia and the world. Thai rice exports reached a record level of 5 million tons and food exports increased 10 percent. While seeking new markets in Asia, Thailand continues to trade with its traditional markets and broaden relations with Southeast Asian countries.

Thailand and Vietnam are friendly neighboring countries. Recently, many high-ranking delegations of the two countries visited one another in order to solve remaining problems and intensify cooperative relations for the prosperity of each country. Initial achievements have been scored in the implementation of signed agreements, including agreements on trade, economic and technological cooperation, aviation service, setting up of the joint committee on economic cooperation, and encouragement of investment.

The two-way trade volume between the two countries has quickly increased. In 1992 it reached more than $140 million dollars, compared to $100 million in 1990, a 10-fold increase over the 1988 volume. As of November 1992, Thailand had 28 projects approved in Vietnam with a total prescribed capital of nearly $62 million.

The prospects for economic and trade cooperation between the two countries are still great. As agricultural countries, Vietnam and Thailand can increase their cooperation in this field. In a visit to our country in February last year, the chairman of the CP [Charoen Phokkaphan] Consortium of Thailand presented some cooperation projects with Vietnam's agricultural industry, including corn and bean cultivation, shrimp and chicken breeding, establishment of livestock food processing plants, and cold storage with measures to increase Vietnam's corn production output by 800,000 to one million tons and poultry meat export volume by 30,000 tons a year.

The Thai minister of commerce suggested the two countries set up private joint ventures in rice exports and fishing with government support. Following the visit to our country by Crown Prince Maha Wachiralongkon and Thai entrepreneurs, Thailand expressed its desire to invest more in Vietnam. The two countries are negotiating for an early signing of agreements on avoidance of double taxation, fishing, posts and communication, and tourism. Thailand's national leaders have affirmed the country's foreign policy of broadening relations with neighboring countries, including Vietnam.

In Vietnam, one of the industrial and service complexes most attractive to foreign investors is the Bien Hoa Industrial Zone, where the (Panprakan) Corporation of Thailand is taking the lead in a multinational joint venture. The BANGKOK POST has written that the Panprakan Corporation will invest about $900 million to, together with other companies in Asia, build the Bien Hoa Industrial Zone, which is located on what used to be the largest U.S. military base in South Vietnam.

The French news agency AFP quotes the (Panprakan) Corporation chairman as saying that the joint venture might be the largest foreign investment project ever undertaken in Vietnam. He said that if the United States does not lift its trade embargo against Vietnam, many U.S. companies will still invest in this project through Thai companies.

Target Set for Oil Export Transportation

BK2302142893 Hong Kong AFP in English 1420 GMT 23 Feb 93

[Text] Hanoi, Feb 23 (AFP)—Vietnam aims to transport 20 percent of its oil exports in 1993, the VIETNAM NEWS daily said Tuesday.

According to Vice Premier Phan Van Khai, the Marine Transport Department will have to first acquire a fleet of oil tankers, either by itself or through joint-ventures with foreign partners, the English-language daily said.

The department expects to double its oil transport capacity in two years to carry 40 percent of its oil exports in 1995, the newspaper said.

Vietnam's oil output was 5.5 million tonnes in 1992 and Vietsopetro, the Russo-Vietnamese company extracting it, aims to take more than six million tonnes this year from the off-shore oil fields of Bach Ho (white tiger) and Dai Hung (big bear) off Vietnam's southern coast.

Vietnam, which does not yet have the capability to refine its oil, exports almost all its crude principally to Japan.

Japan, Indonesia To Participate in Oil Venture

BK2402032693 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] According to a report on 16 February by the Japanese newspaper NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN, the (Nankonsun) Partnership Corporation, a business joint venture between Japan's (Naraobini) Corporation and Indonesia's Petroleum Corporation headquartered in Tokyo, will participate in oil exploitation on Vietnam's southern continental shelf. The (Nankonsun) Corporation will participate in oil exploitation at Lot No. 11/1 next to the Dai Hung oil field, the largest oil field in the Vung Tau sea area. The estimated oil deposit at the aforementioned lot ranges from 500-550 million barrels and production costs are estimated to be $1 billion. Oil output is expected to reach 100,000 barrels a day.

Vietsovpetro To Tap 6.5 Million Tons of Crude

BK2402065693 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 23 Feb 93

[Text] The Vietnam-Soviet Oil and Gas Joint Venture—Vietsovpetro—plans to tap 6.5 million tons of crude oil. The main goal of the venture this year is to get the first stage of the central oil rig into operation in order to pump 27 tons per day.

Government Moves To Control 'Chaotic' Rice Market

BK2202133393 Hong Kong AFP in English 1010 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Text] Hanoi, Feb 22 (AFP)—The Vietnam government has decided to reduce the number of rice exporters in an attempt to regulate the chaotic market, Commerce Minister Le Van Triet has announced.

Lao Dong, the weekly trades-union paper, quoted Triet as saying private export companies accounted for 70 per cent of Vietnam's rice trade.

According to official statistics, Vietnam exported 1.92 million tonnes of rice in 1992, and has since 1989 been the world's third largest rice exporter, after Thailand and the United States.

The minister reproached exporters for a lack of commercial know-how, claiming they sometimes signed contracts which they were unable to honor due to lack of stock.

Triet said the firms barred from exporting rice would be able to stay in business as suppliers for authorised exporters.

A Vietnam News report said a few companies, mainly in the south, export the bulk of the rice, between 50,000 and 400,000 tonnes each per year.

The report, published on Sunday, said the rice sold for export was sometimes inferior to the U.S. or Thai product, but was 20 to 60 dollars per tonne cheaper.

The main markets for Vietnam's rice are Africa and Asia, where Thailand is a strong competitor.

Agriculture Ministry Reports on Rice Crop

BK2102145993 Hanoi VNA in English 1452 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA February 21—The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry reports that by mid-February farmers throughout the country had planted winter-spring rice on 2,077,840 hectares, fulfilling approximately 89 percent of the plan.

Of the acreage, the southern provinces planted over 1.2 million hectares, or 98 percent of the plan and the central coastal province, 173,500 hectares. About 866,400 hectares in the northern provinces were put under this crop, accounting for more than 78 percent of the plan.

Le Kha Phieu Writes on Literature, Art

BK1802035393 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2330 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Report on article by Senior Lieutenant General Le Kha Phieu, secretary of the party Central Committee and head of the Armed Forces' Political General Department: "Some Literary and Artistic Issues at Present"]

[Text] To tackle various pressing literary and artistic issues at present, it is necessary to clarify certain literary and artistic renovation-related issues in the party's overall socialist renovation policy. Literature and art are the products and also the indispensable spiritual, intellectual, sentimental, and aesthetic demands of human beings since primeval times when mankind began showing an interest in a classless social community. Of course, this has occurred since the time when mankind was still in a very primitive stage.

Literature and art are inseparable from the material life of mankind and always serve as a driving force for mankind to achieve socioeconomic development. Intrinsically, literature and art have a profound human character, for it is the spiritual life of human beings. Literature and art also have a strong nationalistic character because of the differences in nature of various ethnic groups, notably in literature.

It has been argued that literature and art must have their highest aesthetic qualities, otherwise they will become meaningless. Such incorrect and inadequate conceptions about literature and art have led to simplistic, rigid, and conservative indications and to the inadvertent imposition of will. But with human society going through various stages of confrontation in which nations no longer share the same interests, literature and art have carried a deep imprint of different social classes and different countries. They have become a very sharp and devious weapon of the working class and of the nationalistic struggle. It has left a profound, long-term impact on the feeling and emotion of mankind.

Literature and art have increasingly evolved over the history of the development of human society through the successive development of the many cultural exchanges not only between nations but also between rival classes and between the laboring people and the ruling class in the superstructure of those succeeding socioeconomic systems in the history of each nation and of mankind as a whole.

As long as there is any class struggle, any nationalistic struggle, or any state of man being exploited and ruled by man, literature and art will necessarily continue to be a complex struggle front. Writers or artists will eventually have to stand on one side or another.

Literature and art are always viewed from different angles and used for different purposes. Literature and art are always associated with and designed to serve politics of all sorts. New conceptions about literature and art call for remaining firm on literature and art related to Marxist-Leninist theory and Ho Chi Minh thought, and for applying them creatively in new circumstances.

Uncle Ho once said: Literature and art make up a front. Writers and artists are fighters on that front.

Nowadays, this front is different from what it was before as it has new requirements and tasks and is confronted with new schemes and tricks of the enemy. On the new front, it is a primary task to build the country in conjunction with efforts to defend it. This is different from the previous front whose primary task was to fight for independence, freedom, and happiness. Even on the previous front, Uncle Ho appealed to us to simultaneously fight three enemies, namely hunger, illiteracy, and foreign aggression. Therefore, it would obviously be a mistake if we depart from the conception that literature and art are in the service of politics.

But by viewing this issue simplistically as before is inappropriate and inadequate. Uncle Ho said: Man is an integration of various social relations. Thus, there are not only class and political relations but rather many other relations. During the war, literature and art served vital demands for liberating the country, regaining independence and freedom, and building men chiefly and most essentially for winning the war. Today, literature and art should cater to the tasks of building and defending the fatherland, building a new system, a new culture, and new men with many new, copious and diverse contents. We should build an all- people national defense, the people's armed forces, and keep every citizen ready to fight for national defense and for defending the fatherland and the socialist system with new, very high requirements for not only political, moral, and psychological qualities but also for intellectual standards, and for military science, art, and technology.

The enemy is attacking us maliciously and in a sophisticated way on the literary and artistic fronts with its peaceful evolution strategy. This is done in the hope of diverting our people's attention from their socialist path, changing the color [as heard] of youths of various generations, and causing the identity of the Vietnamese nation to fade away and be eventually destroyed. The great changes in the spiritual, intellectual, emotional, and aesthetic demands of the various strata of people should be met. Not only do we have to meet requirements arising from our political tasks and devise diverse, rich, and creative activities capable of appealing and responding to those essential demands of the people's cultural and spiritual lives, we must also take into account such factors as age group, social class, and living conditions to ensure that the growing needs of everyone in society are met.

It is necessary to cater for more spritual food, especially the useful and wholesome, to the tastes fo the masses. Literature and the arts, if not fascinating, will cause boredom among the masses and drive them into other more attractive but poisonous things. We should resolve to struggle against erroneous tendencies and prevent the circulation of poisonous spiritual food. We should struggle under various forms—within our internal ranks, over the mass media, and among the public. We should strictly punish those who attempt to poison our spiritual food according to the law, in the same way as those found poisoning our food and water. Creative freedom should be linked to the freedom to criticize. Creative freedom based the conscience and sense of responsibility of writers and artists—the engineers of the soul—is meant to help form men in accordance with the standards set by the genuine, the good, and the beautiful. This conforms with the human quality of culture and the arts and is in keeping with the bounds set by state law.

In building a new culture in accordance with the Seventh Party Congress platform, great attention should be paid to improving the Vietnamese people's patriotic tradition. This means to take up and develop the fine traits of the Vietnamese people that have arose from the decades-long patriotic struggle against feudalism and imperialism and in the cause of building the country, prevailing over backwardness and poverty, and preserving Vietnam's customs and traditions.

We should concern ourselves with ensuring that family education is parallel to the school. Family education is important because families are the cells of society. Family education has a lasting effect on people. We should also attach great importance to developing the copious and diverve cultures of the various ethnic groups that make up the large family of multiethnic people of Vietnam. In realizing and substantiating this fact, we will demonstrate our awareness of the socialist system—a system that has a national identity which is heavily imprinted with an advanced culture—in accordance with the Seventh Party Congress platform.

Inadequate understanding about the nature of literature and the arts and the incorrect application of Uncle's arguments cited above are the causes of the many shortcomings and deficiencies in one area or another.

This include the theoretical, creative, critical, management, and leadership aspects. It would be wrong for anyone to want to revise Uncle Ho's arguments and equally imprudent to fail in adapting his arguments to the new situation. The masses would lose their orientations while having new requirements met. The enemy is trying to capture the unattended battlegrounds, especially in the age of an information boom and the development of various modern media. In implementation, we should be careful, wise, and not simplistic and negligent [words indistinct]. Building a new literature in accordance with the Seventh Party Congress' platform is the most effective way to fight incendiary literature and the peaceful evoluation strategy, thus helping defend the fatherland.

We should fully understand and implement strictly and creatively the spirit and letter of the party central committee's plenum resolution on literature and the arts toward the army. This is to enable them to successfully carry out their tasks in the new stage. Now in the army more than ever before, we should correctly evaluate our actual situation, including what is good and weak. We should harmoniously keep literary and artistic activities in the right direction, further improve and produce more our creative literary and artistic works of high ideological and artistic value; and to step up a mass literary and the arts movement, making it more diverse, copious, fervent, and meaningful. However, in the face of that political objective, we should also not forget other spritual, intellectual, emotional, and aesthetic demands of cadres and combatants who are just ordinary people in the military.

Due to the country's political background, it is necessary to closely and harmoniously combine the needs arising from the daily life and cultural life of soldiers in a way that suits the characteristics and duties of the Army. In so doing, we will be able to further enhance and develop the dignity of soldiers, while making it possible for military schools to vigorously draw the attention of youths and contribute directly and effectively to consolidating the party's ideological arena in the army, thereby ensuring political stability in the face of complex changes.

Implementing the party Central Committee's new resolution on culture, literature, and art, it is necessary for our army to most satisfactorily carry out the campaign to create a healthy cultural environment among all grass-roots units in order to mold a new type of man—Uncle Ho's soldier—under the current revolutionary situation, as well as to shape a fine cultural and spiritual lifestyle in a truly extensive mass cultural, literary, and artistic movement at the grass-roots level.

We must resist the influence of reactionary and malicious cultural ideas and prevent it from extending to Army units, while ensuring that cultural, literary, and artistic activities are carried out in close coordination between army units and the local people, youths, and students.

It is necessary to understand that the minimum requirements of culture among Army units involve respecting the dignity of soldiers, caring for their spiritual and material life, broadly instilling democracy, strictly enforcing discipline, and devising a comprehensive standardized pattern.

Cultural, literary, and artistic activities in the Army must be truly healthy, light-hearted, diversified, manifold, and highly inspirational and must not be uninteresting or boring. Cultural, literary, and artistic activities that are healthy but uninteresting or lacking in humor and attractiveness can easily cause soldiers to be inspired by the sinister and ominous aspects of foreign cultures.

Australia

Keating Presents Labor Election Platform

BK2402043293 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0300 GMT 24 Feb 93

[Text] The Australian prime minister, Paul Keating, has officially opened the Labor Party's platform for the national elections next month with a renewed call to break ties with Britain and for Australia to become a republic. National affairs reporter Kate Wall reports that Mr. Keating said Australians should be prepared for a referendum on the matter before the year 2001.

[Begin Wall recording] The prime minister told several hundreds of the Labor Party's faithful in western Sydney that many Australians believe the country would be able to succeed in a world with the unique and unambiguous identity if it had an elected head of state, rather than the British monarchy. Mr. Keating says this is far from a pressing matter, but urges the debate be advanced with a referendum to be held before the year 2001. Mr. Keating also announced several new measures in the area of health and social welfare and acknowledged some responsibility for Australia's high unemployment rate. [end recording]

Evans Calls for PNG Incident Investigation

BK2402064093 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 24 Feb 93

[Text] Australia's foreign minister, Gareth Evans, has asked for a full investigation into an incident that provoked a diplomatic row between Canberra and Port Moresby. An employee of the Australian airline, Qantas, was yesterday asked to leave PNG after Port Moreby accused the airline of conspiring with the Australian Government to return two asylum seekers to Papua New Guinea [PNG]. The two African men had been granted temporary residence in PNG, but chose to enter Australia illegally. They were returned to PNG on Qantas aircraft last week. It is understood officials from PNG's Foreign Ministry have agreed to hold talks with the Australian High Commission in Port Moresby before any further action is taken.

Skilled Workers Lured to Growing Asian Economies

BK2202074393 Hong Kong AFP in English 0542 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Text] Sydney, Feb 22 (AFP)—Skilled Australians are leaving home in greater numbers than ever for jobs in the fast-growing Asian economies such as Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia, according to official data released Monday. At the same time, emigration from this country built by immigration has reached its highest level for two decades, the Bureau of Immigration Research said in a new study. But the recession and its aftermath are considered to be relatively minor factors in the exodus, except among departing Australians.

More significant factors are homesickness and arrival patterns two or three years earlier, David Ward, co-author of the latest study, told AFP. "The most important factor overall is the number of immigrants arriving two to three years earlier," he said.

Of the total numbers leaving, about one third are Australian-born and the rest are mostly migrants returning home two or three years after arriving here. The report shows the 60,000 people who left during the two fiscal years 1990-91 and 1991-92 was the highest level of permanent departure since 1974-75.

During the past 10 years, the proportion of skilled workers among immigrants now emigrating rose from 24 percent to 30 percent, and among Australian-born emigrants rose from 20 to 30 percent. During the same period, the number of Australian-born permanent departures rose from 5,800 to 9,200, most leaving for New Zealand, Britain or the United States.

Ward said the sharp rise in emigration of highly skilled people could cause concern. "At the moment about 30 percent of all the people leaving Australia are skilled and about 20 percent are unskilled or semi- skilled with the remainder being dependents," Ward told AFP. While it was a "brain-drain" that needed to be monitored, he said Australia still receives many more skilled workers than it loses. Increasing numbers were "leaving to live in rapidly industrialising Asian countries such as Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia," the report said.

The increasing internationalisation of labour markets and mobility of labour, along with an increasing world demand for skilled workers, was expected to reinforce the trend towards Australians moving overseas to work, the report added. The decision to leave Australia was based on a complex and varied set of reasons, usually not involving dissatisfaction with Australia.

"While migration to Australia is largely based on economic reasons, emigration is often the result of social factors," said the report. "In the case of overseas-born departures, the vast majority (87 percent) return to their country of birth.

"Decisions to return home are often based on feelings of homesickness or insecurity, especially for those who leave within a year or two of arriving in Australia." Some returned after retirement and others because of factors such as divorce or widowhood. However, he said that historically, increases in the emigration of Australian-born have corresponded with sharp increases in unemployment rates.

New Zealand

Finance Minister Told Not To Criticize U.S.

BK2202052893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0507 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Text] Wellington, Feb 22 (AFP)—Finance Minister Ruth Richardson who last week slammed the economic policies of U.S. President Bill Clinton as "unintelligent" has been told not to do it again, Prime Minister Jim Bolger made clear Monday.

"I think we should desist from criticising other governments' policies except where they impact on New Zealand," he said at his weekly news conference. "Trade policy is one area where another country or a group of countries can impact on New Zealand and there we have a legitimate right to express our views. Otherwise I think we should leave other governments to get on with the job of running their countries and get on with the job of running ours."

Asked whether he had instructed his ministers not to make criticisms, he replied: "No. But I don't expect it to happen."

Richardson last Thursday assailed Clinton on the local service of the BBC World Service radio. Her attack came before he gave his state of the union address in which he outlined tax increases and spending cuts to cope with the U.S. deficit.

Richardson was damning about the tax increases. "In an unintelligent way he's going to blunder in and we're going to have a high-taxing president on our hands as well as a protectionist. It's a pretty lethal combination," she said. Clinton's proposal was "sheer folly," she said.

Bolger would not directly answer questions about whether he had or would send a message to Washington. "I'm sure Washington gets lots of messages and I'm sure they've noted what I've said publicly. I'm sure they will draw their own conclusions," he said.

Papua New Guinea

Secessionists Accuse PNG Troops of Torture

BK2202075293 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Text] The Bougainville secessionists claimed that three people who were captured by Papau New Guinea [PNG] security forces during the recent attack on Arawa are feared to have been shot dead after being tortured. The three were (Ken Sabi), a leading member of the self-styled Bougainville interim government; (Gabriel Tamiyung) of Kieta, and Mr. (Toromura) of (Suwai).

Radio Free Bougainville says Mr. (Sabi) was last seen on Sunday, 14 February being tied with a rope and dragged behind the vehicle at the Arawa supermarket car park area. It says he was killed either on that day or the next. The rebel radio said Mr. (Toromura) and Mr. (Tamiyung) were believed to have been killed a few days later after being tortured.

Meanwhile, the Bougainville Revolutionary Army has reported renewed fighting in the Buin and (Suwai) areas of south Bougainville between its members and PNG troops.

In another development, the PNG government administrator for Bougainville (Sam Tulo) has confirmed the escape of Bougainville rebel (Grake Mano) from military custody.

Tonga

Economy Poor Despite Balanced Budget

BK1802030093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0152 GMT 18 Feb 93

[By Michael Field]

[Text] Nukualofa, Feb 18 (AFP)—The tiny kingdom of Tonga is a textbook example of why politicians' and economists' dreams of a balanced government budget do not necessarily bring economic success. The kingdom has made much of a recent article in Asiaweek magazine lauding its finances.

The government's Tonga Chronicle weekly ran a front-page story boasting that Asiaweek hailed Tonga for its balanced government budget and foreign payments, while praising its minimal debt and adequate reserves. The balance of payments at the end of June 1992 was 1.3 million pa'anga (972,790 dollars) in surplus, while external reserves at that time were 39.64 million pa'anga (29.66 million dollars), according to National Reserve Bank of Tonga figures.

But although Finance Minister Cecil Cocker seems obsessed with balancing the budget—in the current one, government expenditure is held to levels below those of 1990 to 1991—Tonga and its economy are in a poor state. The only smooth road in the entire kingdom is a small section around the royal palace. The rest is potholed and dusty, even in the centre of the capital—which looks as if a hurricane passed by a decade ago and nobody bothered to repair the damage.

The best insight into the quality of Tonga's health system is that whenever King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV or his family get sick they go to Hawaii, Australia, New Zealand or anywhere else rather than visit the local hospital. Similarly the royal family steers clear of Tonga's schools and sends its children to boarding schools overseas.

The kingdom's 97,000 people have plenty of food, but most are poor. Gross domestic product per capita stands at between 1,000 and 1,500 U.S. dollars.

The decaying buildings and dishevelled look of Tonga's people are unlikely to change until the government decides to put its foreign reserves to work by investing in the kingdom, rather than letting the funds languish in foreign bank accounts to make the official figures look good. Even then, Tonga's would remain vulnerable.

Frequent cyclones damage the environment by whipping up sea spray and sometimes flatten everything. The cyclone season coincides with the main period for selling squash to Japan, threatening the kingdom's biggest export which last year earned it 25 million pa'anga (18 million dollars).

Tonga's economy is also dependent on some 55,000 Tongans living aboard. But remittances are declining—with 45 million pa'anga (33 million dollars) sent home in 1992, down two million pa'anga (1.4 million dollars) on the previous year. Foreign aid too is likely to fall off as the world focuses its attention on eastern Europe, said Cocker, who then sounded an optimistic note by saying Tonga enjoyed full employment "as farmers planted, tended and harvested squash." In fact, emigration, which according to the government figures has whittled away 25 percent of Tonga's labour force, is the real reason for the impressive employment figures.